

Hafa Adai!

Torres supports enclosed smoking area in casino. » **PAGE 3**

Rep of woman killed in plane crash agrees to a settlement. » **PAGE 9**

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75¢

State of disaster renewed a 3rd time

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres signed Sunday a declaration of major disaster and state of significant emergency for the CNMI, the third time the declaration has been renewed since Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan on Aug. 2.

See STATES on Page 4

Project Ayudu raises \$150K for CARE

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

Capping the 60-day fundraising effort called Project Ayudu, Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan presented a check for \$150,000 to the Commonwealth Advocates in Recovery Efforts team yesterday at the Office of the

Governor's conference room.

The donation will be used in support of CARE's efforts to rebuild homes destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor.

Project Ayudu (*ayudu* meaning "to help" in the Chamorro language) was spearheaded by Tan Holdings and its charitable

See AYUDU on Page 4



Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan presents a check for \$150,000 that was raised under Project Ayudu, a fundraising initiative of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. The money was presented to the Commonwealth Advocates in Recovery Efforts to assist it in its Typhoon Soudelor recovery efforts.

DAISY DEMAPAN

ANNUAL DEVOTION

Hundreds of Catholics descend on the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery for the All Souls' Day rosary and Holy Mass.

DAISY DEMAPAN

See story on Page 4



Fish kill at Marine Beach

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Hundreds of dead fish washed ashore on Marine Beach in Kagman last Wednesday.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources

said around 50 lbs of fish were killed in the area of highest concentration.

Among the fish that were found dead were types that could be eaten and some ornamental species.

Division director Manny Pangelinan said the extreme low

See FISH on Page 4

'Nothing bars Tinian delegation from amending the casino law'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ruled yesterday that Article 21 of the CNMI Constitution does not bar the Tinian Legislative Delegation

from amending the revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act.

Wiseman cited Article 21 that states, "Gambling is prohibited in the Northern Mariana Islands except as provided by Commonwealth law or established

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INSIDE



LOCAL

Students and teachers from a high school in Japan visit the CNMI.

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WORLD

The Russian jetliner that crashed after takeoff in Egypt broke up at high altitude.

» PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE

Akon is about to release his first albums in seven years through a new app.

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Local



28 students from Japan visit the CNMI

Twenty-eight students from the Johoku All-Boys High School from Hiroshima, Japan, have their picture taken with Saipan Mayor David Apatang, second from left.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA-DIZON

By **FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON**
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REPORTER

Students and teachers from a high school in Japan visited the CNMI for a three-day tour last week.

Twenty-eight students in 11th grade and six teachers from Johoku All-Boys High School from Hiroshima were on island

from Oct. 27 to 30.

The visitors, who usually stay with host families weren't able to do so this year, according to Yuki Kishimoto, student cultural exchange program coordinator of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

"This year they weren't able to stay with the host families due to the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor but they are

hoping to be able to stay with the host families next year," Kishimoto said.

The students, however, participating in educational as well as cultural and recreational activities.

"On the first day of the visit, they went sightseeing and attended a 'career education presentation' which was held at Grandvrio Hotel," Kishimoto said.

On their second day, the Johoku students visited Marianas Baptist Academy and taught the students Japanese-style calligraphy. They also had a basketball game and had lunch at school.

The Japanese students also joined the MBA students for a cleanup from Hopwood Jr. High to the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio, the stretch that the Saipan Mayor's Office has adopted under the Department of Public Works Adopt-A-Highway program.

For their last day, the students made a trip to Managaha for recreational swimming and also held a farewell party. Liberation Queen Zolenska Yaroitemal also came to greet the visitors.

"They are planning to visit once again next year in October and are expecting 120 students to participate," Kishimoto said.

Last year, about 127 Japanese students from the same school visited the CNMI.



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Torres supports enclosed smoking area in casino

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres said yesterday that he agrees with recent concerns regarding smoking being allowed in Saipan casinos.

Torres was commenting on a recent clamor from community and health officials over a provision proposed in a casino law amendment bill that would have exempted Saipan's exclusive casino licensee, Best Sunshine International Ltd., from enclosing its gaming floor. That provision

was deleted in its entirety last week, when the Senate amended and passed House Bill 19-95.

The Senate had heard testimony from public health officials on how the provision would have exempted Best Sunshine Live from enclosing its casino floor off from the harmful cigarette smoke that emanates from its gaming floor.

Responding to reporters after a donation presentation on Capital Hill yesterday morning, Torres said he "agreed with the concerns regarding the smoking bill."

Torres said what the Duty Free Saipan and their counter-

parts need to work on—referring to Best Sunshine's gaming facility located within T Galleria—is "enclosurement."

"...So I just hope the private entities can settle their differences within the building itself," he said.

"But sure, it's safety first," Torres added.

Health officials testified last week before the Senate that the proposed amendment would be a direct violation of Public Law 16-46, the Smoke-Free Air Act.

Public Law 16-46 allows for smoking in casino gaming floors, provided the area is enclosed. The casino amendment

would have struck out the word "enclosed" in the Commonwealth Code, in effect allowing for smoking in casinos in an unenclosed space.

Health officials said that while exemption from the smoking law already exists for the gaming floor of casinos, the

law requires that these gaming floors be enclosed. They said eliminating the word "enclosed" from the Commonwealth Code would ratify BSI's unlawful actions by changing the law so that it may continue to prioritize the desire to smoke over the public's right to smoke-free air.

Judge wants to know if Taisague is still interested in suit vs Inos, govt

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood wants to know if Jesus I. Taisague is still interested in pursuing his lawsuit against Gov. Eloy S. Inos, the CNMI government, Department of Finance, and the NMI Retirement Fund for entering into a settlement agreement with Betty Johnson.

In that lawsuit, which Taisague filed in 2013, he claims that the settlement agreement is unconstitutional and illegal.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Taisague, through counsel Ramon Quichocho, initiated the lawsuit on Oct. 17, 2013. There has been no action on the matter for almost one year.

The judge ordered Taisague and the parties in the lawsuit to file a joint status report that addresses the question whether he is still interested in pursuing the case.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that, on Nov. 13, 2014, the CNMI Supreme Court issued its opinion answering the questions

certified to it by this court.

Tydingco-Gatewood directed the parties to explain what effect, if any, does the high court's opinion have on count 2 of Taisague's first amended complaint, which asserts a violation of the contracts clause of the NMI Constitution.

The judge asked the parties if they are interested in participating in a settlement conference.

She wants the parties to file the joint status report by Nov. 6, 2015.

In December 2013, Tydingco-Gatewood denied Taisague's motion that seeks an order enjoining Inos and the CNMI government from withholding or failing to pay 100 percent of his pension benefits.

Tydingco-Gatewood said unlike a wrongfully terminated employee, whose injury is the loss of all income and health insurance, Taisague's injury is the deferment of no more than 25 percent of his income (pension payments)—without any loss of his health insurance coverage.

Taisague is among the 16 persons who opted out of the Johnson settlement agreement.

Tanapag Elem. School wins Aqua Resort pumpkin-carving contest

Tanapag Elementary School won Aqua Resort Club's Halloween pumpkin-carving contest this year.

According to food and beverage manager Rom Manzón, Tanapag's carving, which features a fish and a taga stone, received 42 votes from ARC's diners and guests during the two-day voting period last Friday and Saturday.

The winning school will receive \$1,000 in educational tax credit as their prize.

"We will present to them the certificate soon," Manzón said.

Chacha Oceanview Middle School placed second with their beach scene carving that garnered 37 votes. Garapan Elementary School came third with 32 votes.

Other participants were Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Marianas High School, Oleai Elementary School, Hopwood Jr. High School, San Antonio Middle School, and San Vicente Elementary School.

Pumpkin carving, traditional to Halloween celebrations, has been part of ARC's Oct. 31 revelries for about five years,

said Manzón.

ARC also had a costume contest among its staff, with hotel guests serving as judges for the best costume on Halloween night.

Anna Rose, who dressed up as a "pirate's whore," won \$100 after getting the most number of votes. **(Frauleine S. Villanueva-Dizon)**

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/S/ FRANK M. RABAILMAN
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/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



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/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS
MAYOR OF TINIAN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ JAY JESS SAN NICOLAS
DIRECTOR, CNMI DEPT. OF LABOR-TINIAN

Hundreds flock to cemeteries for annual observance

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
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CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of faithful parishioners descended on the Chalan Kanoa cemetery to remember their departed loved ones in a rosary and Church service Sunday and Monday for All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, respectively.

Parish priests, Mt. Carmel School's National Honor Society, and the San Antonio Parish youth choir joined the island's Catholic community in prayerful silence as Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Apostolic Administrator Fr. Ryan Jimenez presided alongside Fr. Ike Ayuyu and Fr. James Balajadia.

In his sermon, Jimenez re-

mindful parishioners that in death "we are all the same."

"In life we use human worldly criteria that makes each one of us different from each other: the rich, the poor, the prominent, the known and the unknown," he said. "When we die we are all the same. In the eye's of God, even when we are still living, we are equal. We are all

children of God."

Jimenez urged those in attendance to see their peers and neighbors without judgment and with equality during life and after they pass.

Balajadia, who preached at last year's service, said that All Saints' Day is a time for people to ask those who have departed to pray for them so that "we may imitate them and follow in their example of merciful-

ness." On All Souls' Day, he added, people pray for the souls who are not in the final destination: heaven.

"We pray that they reach the promise land," he said.

Youth, he explained, should especially observe this time of the year with reflection and prayerful silence.

"In struggle we have to persevere. We should never give up. That is real faith," he said. "We must pray for a life of joy and happiness. We pray

to experience the kind of joy and happiness with God that no person or creature can take away from us."

Flowers decorated the graves of departed loved ones Sunday while the island is still recovering from Typhoon Soudelor. At the end of the service, Jimenez expressed his appreciation on behalf of the diocese to several community organizations that assisted in cleanup efforts and preparation for one of the island's largest celebrations.

NOTHING

From Page 1

through initiative in the Commonwealth or in any senatorial district."

Wiseman said the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission has not identified language in Article 21 that contains an express restriction on amending a local gambling law.

The judge discussed the local gambling law in his order that denied TCGCC's motion that requested the court to declare invalid three local laws: Tinian Local Law 14-1, Tinian Local Law 18-5, and sections of the Tinian Local Ordinance 18-3.

The commission, executive director Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita, and TCGCC inspector Lisa-Marie B. Aguon are suing Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas and Tinian municipal treasurer Charlene M. Lizama for refusing to pay them the salaries that the commission had increased in December 2014.

San Nicolas paid only the salary amount as allocated in the Budget Act.

In denying the commission's motion yesterday, Wiseman said the relevant express restriction only states that the local legislative body may not establish gambling by local law.

"Therefore, the court does not find that Article 21 prohibits amendments to a local gambling law," the judge said.

Wiseman said that following Article 21's enactment, the electorate of two senatorial districts enacted casino gaming laws: the second senatorial district, consisting of the islands of Tinian and Aguiguan in 1989; and the third senatorial district, consisting of Rota, in 2007.

Finally, the judge said, the 18th CNMI Legislature enacted Public Law 18-38, "enacted pursuant to Article 21 of the Constitution, in order to authorize, establish and provide for casino gambling

and wagering in the Commonwealth," in 2014, 36 years after the Commonwealth first enacted casino gambling.

Wiseman said the Constitution is silent as to whether a local law enacted by local initiative may be later amended by the local legislative body.

He pointed out that in 2008, the Legislature recognized this specific problem and passed an amendment to the Local Law Act of 1983, Public Law 16-4, signed into law as codified in 1 CMC Section 1409.

Under Section 1409, a local law enacted by local initiative, "may be amended, altered, repealed, superceded or altered in any fashion by the enactment of a subsequent local law enacted by the delegation."

Therefore, the judge pointed out, under both the Constitution and by statute, a local law enacted by local initiative may be amended by the local legislative body to the same extent as any other law, absent an express constitutional prohibition.

Wiseman said the primary constitutional question before this court, then, is whether Article 21's prohibition on gambling contains an express constitutional prohibition on legislative amendments to local gambling laws.

The commission argued that Michigan case law and the language of Article 21 supports a finding that the Tinian Legislative Delegation may not amend the revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act.

Wiseman is, however, not convinced.

Wiseman said in the alternative, the commission argued that Article 21's language contains a restriction on amendments to any local gambling law; specifically in the word "as."

Article 21 states that "gambling is prohibited in the Northern Marianas except as...established through initiative...in any senatorial district."

victims need help now. Not next year and that's why we wanted to get it done quickly. So we set an internal deadline of Oct. 31 and immediately went to work and I'm happy to share that we reached out to our friends in Guam and sold all our 3,000 shirts there."

Tan shared that the efforts were split 70/30 and that Project Ayudu successfully sold their 7,000 share of shirts.

"I'm very proud of the people, the community and our business partners. I'm very glad that we are not alone during this time of disaster," he said.

Tan expressed his gratitude to all those involved in recov-

The commission argued that "as" means "in the same manner in which."

Therefore, according to it, any amendment to the revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act would defeat the same manner in which, or the particularities of the Act, as initially submitted to the voters in 1989.

Wiseman said the court recognizes an inherent ambiguity in the use of the word "as." However, without more, the court is not persuaded that such ambiguity exists in the context of the plain language of Article 21, he said.

Even if "as" resulted in an ambiguous reading of the constitutional provision, the judge said, such interpretation is not supported in the constitutional history of Article 21.

Wiseman said he does not find that an ambiguous phrase within Article 21, one resulting from usage of the word "as," restricts the Tinian Legislative Delegation from amending the revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act.

Wiseman said because the court finds that a local legislative body may amend an already-established local gambling law, the court also finds that Article 21 does not bar the Tinian Legislative Delegation from amending the revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act.

The commission argued that Tinian Local Ordinance 18-3 is unconstitutional because it violates the constitutional separation of powers as recognized in the court's previous decision.

Specifically, the commission alleged that sections of Tinian Local Ordinance 18-3 prohibits it from increasing any such employee's salary, regardless of whether the total amount of compensation paid to commission employees remain within budget.

Wiseman said he is not persuaded that the laws violate

ery efforts. "I know there are people out there suffering and we want to recognize that and try to get the money out to CARE and see what they can do to help the victims."

Jenny Hegland of CARE said the group is building capacity to begin work on the home repair and reconstruction element of its mission. The centralized Disaster Case Management program currently being run by the Red Cross will identify those individuals with the greatest unmet needs to be considered for rebuilding assistance through CARE.

"The case managers will help us identify individuals with unmet needs after the rest

the constitutional separation of powers doctrine.

"For a legislative act to infringe upon the principle of the separation of powers, the case must first involve a dispute between three coequal branches of government," he said.

Wiseman said the commission, an agency under the local mayor's office, has not shown that it is entitled to a declaratory judgment under the existing constitutional separation of powers doctrine.

The commission also argued that the local laws at issue in this matter "unduly and unreasonably interfere with the second senatorial district's constitutional right to effectively establish gambling" under the test established in the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Wiseman said there are two problems with the commission's claim.

First, Wiseman said, the commission has not met its burden under Rule 56 to show that the material facts are undisputed.

Second, Wiseman said, the commission has not met its burden under the "unduly and unreasonable" interference test as established by the CNMI Supreme Court.

Citing an affidavit by Maureen D. Williamson, a professional consultant providing gaming regulatory advisory services, the commission claimed that Tinian Local Law 18-5 impermissibly interferes with the effective regulation of gambling on Tinian because there is no reliable way to identify premium players—and the effect is that non-premium players are being assessed a lower tax gambling revenue tax rate.

Under the "unduly and unreasonable" interference test, Wiseman said the commission must first show the revised Tinian Casino Gaming Act conflicts with constitutional provisions or Commonwealth-wide law.

of the resources of the community have been exhausted. We will use our funds to assist with rebuilding based on needs. These are additional funds and an important first step in the rebuilding process is debris removal and so our immediate efforts are focused on the debris so that we can start rebuilding," said Hegland.

The \$150,000 donation will be spent through CARE's Construction subcommittee on ancillary items such as nails, hammers, and other construction supplies and services that are needed in rebuilding the homes of typhoon victims.

FISH

From Page 1

tide that is being experienced for some days now caused the die-off.

"There's no flow of water and some fish were caught up in those rocks and the lack of oxygen and the heat of the sun, we determined that that is the cause of that," Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune*.

"It's the changing of the climate due to the excessive low tide," he added.

Fisheries biologist Michael Tenorio noted that most of the fish that were killed were young ones.

"Most of the fish that died at Marine Beach are juveniles. They tend to use those areas to hide from other fish. Unfortunately, when they get stuck, they die out. Sometimes if the tide is low and it's for an extended period of time, that's when you get higher chances of fish dying because of being trapped," he said.

Though excessively low, Tenorio said this kind of tide cycle is normal.

"It's a normal process. Every year you get extreme tides," Tenorio said, "It happens every couple times a year and it happens in areas where you know they will get trapped."

Tenorio said beaches such as the Marine Beach and Tank Beach are where this type of fish kill often happens as they have fringing

reefs and raised tables.

Pangelinan added that they weren't able to find any unnatural toxins that may have caused the mass die-off.

"We didn't find any illegal type of fishing or activities such as poisoning or those types of device," Pangelinan said. "Right now we don't suspect the use of poison or chlorine."

He added that if they do see anything other than the lack of oxygen and the low tide that cause the death of the fish, they would send samples to Hawaii for testing.

Pangelinan said they continue to monitor spots that might also be impacted by the extreme low tide.

Although there is little they can do in fish kills caused by natural occurrences, DFW said it is still best for the public to inform the division.

"DFW is asking the public, that if they come across this type of incident, to immediately call us so that we can continue to check," Pangelinan said.

"If people see those fish there...they can help physically remove the fish from that area and out to the water," he added.

DFW said this could continue but not necessarily something that should cause alarm.

"The tide normalizes. It comes and goes and you have your extremes, like your wet season and your dry season. This is one of those extremes that will fade off and normalize again," Tenorio said.

STATES

From Page 1

"Full utility services have not yet been restored to the island of Saipan," the executive order states. "The disruption of critical infrastructure poses a significant threat to peace, health, and safety of the Commonwealth's residents."

Gov. Eloy S. Inos first renewed the Aug. 3 disaster declaration on Sept. 3 and then again on Oct. 2.

On Aug 5., President Barack Obama issued a major disaster declaration for the CNMI under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance, allowing for federal aid to the CNMI after the typhoon.

Champi

Meanwhile, government agencies are assessing damage left by Tropical Storm Champi last month, according to press secretary Ivan Blanco yesterday.

Blanco said the government is trying to assess if the damage meets the \$1-million threshold

for public assistance under the Federal Emergency Management Agency

He said government agencies have a Nov. 16 deadline.

"We have about two weeks to finalize the assessment," Blanco said, noting that the Office of the Governor's emergency operations teams were conducting the assessment.

Typhoon Champi and Typhoon Soudelor updates were the main points of discussion during a Cabinet meeting yesterday between Torres and agency heads, according to Blanco.

Blanco said agencies were asked to submit their damage assessments.

He said if they met the \$1-million qualification then the CNMI would "seek assistance from FEMA."

Champi blew through the CNMI last Oct. 16, dumping about 24.77 inches of rain on Tinian and 11.71 inches of rain on Saipan. The heavy rains caused major flooding on Tinian, damaging roads and a waterline, among others.

AYUDU

From Page 1

arm, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. The funds were raised through the sale of T-shirts with the "Project Ayudu Saipan" slogan. The T-shirts have become a regular sighting on Saipan since the storm.

Project Ayudu team leader Alex Sablan stated that the goal was to sell 10,000 T-shirts in the CNMI and Guam.

Tan stated, "This is a very important and special project for us. We actually launched the project about eight weeks ago. I told the team that Saipan

‘More needs to be done to combat high incidence of diabetes’

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

In a packed conference room on Capital Hill last Friday, Margaret Aldan asked those in attendance to stand if they knew anyone with diabetes. Within seconds, not one person was left sitting.

Aldan used the exercise to starkly illustrate the prevalence of diabetes in the Commonwealth and how much more needs to be done to start having an impact in the community—a community that has seen so many of its citizens suffering from this non-communicable disease.

“Imagine in the CNMI, there are 50,000 people or more. Imagine how many more are out there suffering from this disease. We are asking the community as a whole because we cannot do this alone. Our education, outreach or even compliance with medication is something we really need to work together on to see an impact,” said Aldan, who is director of the Division of Public Health.

Acknowledging the continual urgency to combat this public health issue, acting governor Ralph DLG Torres proclaimed November as Diabetes Awareness and Prevention Month and Nov. 14 as CNMI Diabetes Day.

“Diabetes contributes to the greatest CNMI healthcare costs



DAISY DEMAPAN
Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. staff and members of the community gather at the Office of the Governor's conference room for a diabetes proclamation signing, which is among a handful of other important health proclamations this month.

diabetes, which is also the No. 1 cause for people to go on dialysis.

Diabetes or any other non-communicable disease also puts one at a higher risk of developing infectious diseases such as pneumonia or tuberculosis.

“We need to be much more aggressive in addressing this. We need a whole-of-society approach. This involves our government, the schools, the hospital, the faith-based organizations, and the community,” Lamar said.

Diabetes Project Assistant Amber Lynn Mendiola stated that the reality of diabetes is also seen in the “126-percent increase in newly registered dialysis patients.”

In closing, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna said, “It is very difficult to change eating habits and to change lifestyles. We want this to be done everyday of the year. [Diabetes] can be managed, it can be prevented and we hope and encourage people to come to CHCC and ask questions. We are here to help you.”

which includes medical referrals. I call upon all citizens to put their health first throughout their lives. I call upon the CNMI's private institutions to aid in the prevention of diabetes by promoting and making healthy goods and services accessible to all citizens,” he said.

According to the proclamation, Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed on April 13, 2013, a non-communicable disease directive due to the rampant rise of non-communicable diseases, or NCDs.

This year's proclamation comes as a renewed commitment to addressing this public health issue.

The proclamation states that the CNMI has the highest incidence of diabetes and chronic illnesses such as blindness, heart attacks, strokes, and hypertension.

According to Medical Director Dr. Daniel Lamar, “[diabetes] is a problem for each and everyone of us. It affects us individually, our families and our

friends, so I really appreciate that our government recognizes this challenge in our community and offers us the opportunity to focus this month on awareness because this is really a continual effort we've tried to address for years and we're just not as successful as we need to be.”

Lamar shared that in the United States, one in every eight person has diabetes. He estimates the number to be much greater in the CNMI. In adults, he says, between 1 in every 3 has diabe-

tes or is pre-diabetic.

“We're planning a survey for the beginning of the year to define the [disease] much better. We know now that diabetes here affects us much more severely. Dr. Don Hardt shared his statistics and found that here in the CNMI, retinopathy is seen in 70 percent of his patients as opposed to the 13 percent rate in the U.S.,” he said.

Developing retinopathy, he said, puts one at a greater risk of developing blindness due to

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Anti-poverty commission looking for dedicated volunteers

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of a newly formed "special commission on economic opportunity" would be "non-compensated" volunteers, according to acting governor Ralph DLG Torres, who initiated the project.

"Commission members serve in a voluntary capacity, dedicating considerable time and energy to this effort. Each member invited to this commission represents a strong commitment to increasing economic opportunity and alleviating poverty [in the Commonwealth]," he added.

Torres said the commission would facilitate public forums to hear directly from people

living in poverty about their experiences, observations, and suggestions. These meetings will also address the concerns of those who have any questions regarding the commission's progress and policy work.

"This type of collaboration between the public and private sector is very important to us. We want to hear from everyone who has a concern or a desire to help make our community more prosperous. Tackling poverty requires more than just the government," Torres said in a statement.

The commission has scheduled its first session on Nov.

12 from 9am to 11am at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

An invitation to non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, and local businesses to join discussions on poverty was sent last week.



Torres

Torres, in his statement, said the first meeting would be the community's opportunity to gain contextual understanding of the various governmental programs that provide assistance to low-income households.

It will also "begin discussions as to how these services can be improved to meet the goals of this collaborative vi-

sion for the CNMI."

"As part of this commitment to improving lives of our community, I am inviting you to participate in this multifaceted network of coalitions, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies chaired by my office to assist in addressing this persistent and growing problem," Torres said in his invitation letter.

The commission sees the inaugural session as a first in a series of discussions aimed at addressing the various needs of the community. Ensuing meetings are planned to involve discussions on criminal justice reforms, health care transformation, and how the government can assist community organizations in the CNMI.

PEBBLES AND STONES

Expanding the family business



Leila Staffler, owner of Pebbles & Stones, offers a variety of natural stone products from Bali for customers looking to improve their home and business environment. The store is located along Beach Road, beside Monika's Furniture.

DAISY DEMAPAN

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pebbles and Stones held its grand opening on Oct. 30, bringing a variety of natural stone products from Bali for customers looking to improve their home and business environments.

Those looking to accessorize or accentuate with different styles and functions of sinks and mosaic pavers are invited to check out Pebbles and Stones' inventory and catalog.

According to owner Leila Staffler, "it was my husband's idea. We were thinking about what are some of the markets that aren't available on Saipan and with a lot of people renovating and asking my mother-in-law to bring things in from Bali, he said why don't we open up a store that caters to those needs."

Pebbles and Stones operates adjacent to Monika's Furniture on Beach Road beside the Hardt Eye Clinic. Monika Nugent, who is Leila's mother-in-

law, is the primary mentor for the novice businesswoman.

Nugent's extensive business experience in the CNMI and Bali allowed for the expansion to become a reality, Staffler said.

All items are made of natural stone; nothing is synthetic. They currently offer white marble, pink marble, onyx, and eventually plan to bring in granite products.


When asked about the store's prices, Staffler said their prices are affordable and comparable to that of Home Depot in Guam.

Items are sold by the box or in smaller quantities for those working on small projects. Special orders are available and shipments usually arrive in six weeks.


At the moment, they do not offer home installations but are looking to offer it in the future.

For those interested, the store is open seven days a week, Monday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm and 12pm to 5pm on Sunday.

For further inquiries, call 234-STON.



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‘Memorial needs to be more community oriented event’

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

John “Bolis” Gonzales lamented the lack of community involvement during last Friday’s 2nd Commemoration of the Marianas Memorial Courtyard at the American Memorial Park to honor the Chamorro and Carolinian victims of World War II.

Gonzales, a well-known activist for the preservation of culture who served as the master of ceremony in Friday’s event, expressed his sentiments on the significance of memorializing the indigenous victims of World war II, saying “this needs to become a community event so that we remember and honor our ancestors who died.”

Others who took part in the ceremony were officials of the Municipality of Saipan, House representatives, senators, and parishioners.

The ceremony began with L.J. Castro offering traditional cultural rites, calling on the islands’ ancestors to guide the people of the CNMI in their lives.

Frankie Eliptico, who also spoke, stated that the victims were “caught in a war not of their making, like many members of the Pacific. The memorial symbolizes the only tombstone for Chamorros and Carolinians who lost their lives during the war and whose final resting place has remained untraceable.”

Fr. Sid Ogumoro led the invocation, praying that the CNMI and the world remain advocates of peace in this life.

The memorial proceeded with a candle light vigil, silent meditation, wreath laying, the blessing of the monument, and the retiring of colors by the Saipan Southern High School JROTC.

The Marianas Memorial honors those who lost their lives as a result of American aerial bombardment on June 11, 1944, to the closure of Camp Susupe on July 4, 1946. In 2003, the American Memorial Park Visitor Center Content Review Committee compiled a list of names from the Department of War Claims, the CNMI Office of the Washington Representative, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, various federal agencies and the CNMI Historic Preservation Office. The names are engraved on 10 granite panels at the memorial in honor and remembrance of the departed.



Parishioners known as Nanan Kilisyanu or Christian Mothers lead a silent prayer and candlelight vigil during the 2nd Commemoration of the Marianas Memorial Courtyard to honor the Chamorros and Carolinians who died during World War II.

Local law signed for more funding for DPW administrative costs

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres signed last week a local law to allow funding for the administrative costs of the Technical Services Division under the Department of Public Works.

House Local Bill 19-12,D2 is now Saipan Local law 19-19. Before the bill was signed, the Technical Services Division could only use 2 percent of the total funds allocated for each locally appropriated capital improvement projects on Saipan over \$50,000, provided that the allocation was limited to \$10,000 regardless of the total project amount.

“The hurdle is that majority of the projects fall under the \$50,000 mark,” the local law states. “[DPW’s] end result is zero collection. DPW is not able to collect the 2 percent and would have to rely on collections from other projects that are above \$50,000, which is seldom and rare.”

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation finds that 2 percent of the total funds is not enough to sustain capital improvement projects. This percentage inadequately copes with the costs associated with the processing of such projects, the law says.

Thus, the new local law amends the Commonwealth Code to mandate a \$15,000 threshold instead, with DPW authorized to use 5 percent, instead of 2 percent, of total funds allocated to each project.

Funds allocated will be strictly for administrative costs like copying, certification, advertisements, architectural and engineering design, and other costs except personnel and travel, according to the local law.

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Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-002

Fitme Place Road Improvement, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Fitme Place Road Improvement**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **October 20, 2015** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 06, 2015**, 2:00 p.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 13, 2015** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-16-IFB-002"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Former Emergency Management Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **November 18, 2015**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **November 18, 2015**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@picom.com or camachof74@gmail.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 18, 2015** and must be received no later than **November 27, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Former Emergency Management Office Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time **December 02, 2015**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **November 18, 2015**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a)

A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b)

A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1)

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2)

US Gov't Securities

3)

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4)

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Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Fifty Dollars (US\$150.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.;

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Rep of woman killed in plane crash agrees to a settlement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Xiaojie Ge, a representative of a plane passenger who was killed in a crash at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport in 2012, has agreed to settle her lawsuit.

Xin Hong, another plane passenger who suffered serious injuries, also agreed to settle the matter, according to documents filed in federal court.

Both settlement amounts were not disclosed in court paper.

Ge represents Weilian Lu and Lu's minor daughter, Y. Ge, in the lawsuit. Lu was the lone fatality in the crash that injured four other passengers and the pilot.

According to attorneys Mark B. Hanson and John K. Courtney, three other passengers—Xiuzhong Zhu, Meilin Zhou, and Xiaohua Zhou—are still in settlement negotiations.

Hanson and Courtney are counsels for all plaintiffs, who are Chinese nationals.

The lawyers updated the federal court last week on the status of settlement negotiations.

Hanson and Courtney said the settlement entered by Ge, on behalf of Lu and Lu's daughter, is subject to the minor child's compensation hearing with the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

As a result of the crash, Lu was dead on arrival at the hospital due to burns and other fatal injuries. Xin Hong suf-

ferred a fracture in the vertebra, requiring surgery. Meilin Zhou suffered a fractured right arm, burned chin, an injured right leg, and an injured hip. Xiaohua Zhou suffered third-degree burns on her face, a burned right arm, a fractured left arm, and an injured head causing memory loss. Xiu-zhong Zhu suffered an injured forehead, a dislocated left arm, and a fractured back.

Hanson and Courtney said all plaintiffs continue to suffer from a myriad of physical and emotional injuries.

The plaintiffs sued pilot Jae Choi, Star Marianas Air Inc., Marianas Air Travel, Tinian Transportation Management Solutions Inc., Tianing Travel Agency, Century Tours, Top Development Inc., and 100 unnamed co-defendants, for negligence, wrongful death, and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

In addition, the plaintiffs sued Star Marianas Air for fraud.

Last Jan. 6, the plaintiffs voluntarily dropped Century Tours from the lawsuit.

Last February, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the Korean pilot Jae Choi and China-based Tianing Travel Agency from the lawsuit.

Manglona said because plaintiffs and defendants Choi and Tianing Travel Agency are non-diverse, the court will dis-

miss the two from the lawsuit to preserve the court's diversity jurisdiction.

According to the complaint, pilot Choi crash landed on Nov. 19, 2012, an aircraft operated by Star Marianas Air into the trees north of the runway at the

Saipan International Airport. All plaintiffs were aboard this flight except for the minor, Ge.

Hanson said the plane, a seven-passenger Piper PA-32 Cherokee Six, attempted to depart from the Saipan airport with the intended destination of Tinian.

Hanson said the flight was to shuttle six plaintiffs to the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino as part of a trip package put together by Tianing and Top Development.

While taking off at 6:20am, the plane allegedly lost power and nose-dived into the trees

adjoining the north side of the runway, then a fire ensued.

Hanson said the crash and subsequent fire injured Choi and four of the passengers, and Lu was killed.

The lawyer noted that the aircraft was manufactured in 1969 and at the time of the crash had already accrued 6,805 hours of service.

Club 88 Island Theme Mural Competition

In conjunction with the opening of our second e-gaming Club 88, Mariana Resort and Spa Club 88 is sponsoring a competition to paint a mural on the exterior wall of the veranda overlooking Mandi Asian Spa and the Pacific Ocean. The winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$1,500 to paint their design and showcase their talents. This competition is open to all local resident artists.

The mural will be painted by the selected artist on an outdoor wall measuring approximately 25 feet long by 20 feet high and will be painted. Paint and materials will be provided by Club 88. Subject material for the mural should be in keeping with the island/ocean theme; for example, ocean; reef; dolphins; sunset, etc.

Interested artists must submit their full-color design by the closing deadline of November 6, 2015.

The winning design will be announced November 10, 2015.

Designs should be submitted to: Michael Holl, (670) 233-0888; Club88MHoll@gmail.com.



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Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

China's one-child policy ensured prosperity at a terrible price

Boy-boy-boy girl. Boy-boy-boy-girl. Visit a school or playground in a Chinese city, and count the results of a government edict limiting most couples to one child. In a culture that favors sons over daughters, some families will use ultrasounds and abortions to get the baby they desire.

Social engineering is a dangerous pursuit. China knew years and years ago that its one-child policy was a draconian step that could bring dire consequences. But Communist Party leaders also considered it the only practical, expedient solution to overpopulation, which threatened to sabotage the country's race to modernization.

Now, after 35 years, the one-child policy has been lifted—or at least modified. The new rules permit families to have two children.

If you're looking for a single example of how different life in China can be from in America, the one-child policy surely is it: a harsh government intrusion on privacy instituted for the greater good. It's ending now, not because an enlightened leadership wants to right a wrong but because the policy is no longer needed.

Actually, the one-child policy threatens Chinese prosperity the way overpopulation once did. China, with 1.3 billion people, would have had about 400 million more mouths to feed without the one-child policy. But the country is aging and the labor force is shrinking, and that will put a tremendous burden on the country in the next few decades.

By 2050, China will have more than 440 million people over age 60. Who will care for all those people as they grow old? Under the one-child policy, a married couple has sole responsibility for four elderly parents because the adult children have no brothers or sisters to share the burden.

This gets at the human toll of such an extreme law: For more than a generation, China has been a culture that forbids siblings, where there are no aunts or uncles. Local party officials, charged with carrying out the policy, levied heavy fines on couples who had multiple children, or punished women with forced abortions and sterilization.

Because many families subverted the law by using fetal testing to determine the sex, the result has been devastating in its own way. China has a serious gender imbalance. Globally, an average of 103 to 107 boys are born for every 100 girls, but in China the ratio is about 118 boys per 100.

The result is a subculture of what the Chinese call "bare branches"—men who cannot find women to marry. There may be as many as 30 million of these lonely people. Enough that some social scientists worry they are disaffected enough to cause an increase in the crime rate. Enough that one economist suggested in a blog allowing multiple men to marry one woman. According to *The New York Times*, the economist was shamed by critics, one of whom wrote: "Behind the imbalanced sex ratio of 30 million bachelors lie 30 million baby girls who died due to sex discrimination."

The one-child policy was never applied to all Chinese; rural families, for example were allowed two children and often had more. The government began loosening the restriction in 2013, signaling the end of the policy was coming. But there is still a significant worry: birthrates typically decline as societies become more affluent, and so there is no guarantee that urban couples will embrace the opportunity to have a second child. China may find it is too late to undo all the damage caused by its cruel experiment.

(c)2015 Chicago Tribune



Praise Trump for sparing us a longer debate

Even the erstwhile front-runner Donald Trump didn't have fun at the third debate of Republican presidential candidates on Wednesday night. He used his summation to praise himself for at least setting limits to the boredom by pushing the network host to keep the event to two hours.

It would be hard to argue that he was wrong. It was as if the 10 Republican candidates had watched Democrats debate and were clumsily trying to show that they get down to substance, too. But, with the exception of Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who deftly found ways to remind everyone that he had and could govern, they couldn't quite pull it off. Sen. Ted Cruz tried to shift the blame on to the moderators, chastising them for lowering the tone, saying "This is not a cage match," even though at times it resembled one.

At one time, Jeb Bush was the designated grown-up, but these days he's lost his air of authority. More than any of his rivals, Bush needed to shine to revive his stumbling, cost-slashing campaign. But his performance was out of kilter and at times he looked lost.

Unlike the others, he didn't jump in to correct someone or steamroll the moderators; he didn't own the microphone even when he had it. His tax plan holds up better than some others but he made little effort to show he believed that. He treated a question about fantasy football with a light touch—saying he's winning 7-0—but then he gave Gov. Chris Christie a big opening by calling for regulation. Christie got on his high horse, calling the whole line of questioning trivial, without mentioning that gambling is a protected industry in his state.

So many candidates needing a breakout moment, so little time. They were good on what they wouldn't do (Sen. Marco Rubio: "anything that's bad for my mother"). They were weaker on what they would do, except for their somewhat similar tax plans and their willingness to blame the government for any problem.

At the beginning, the candidates talked over each other. They seemed to run out of steam as the night wore on. Bush ended up speaking 6 minutes and 39 seconds. Only Rand Paul had less airtime.

Trump, too, vanished for long periods, jumping in to say that he had a permit to carry a concealed weapon and didn't like people to know when he was packing to preserve the element of surprise. Carson, who is edging Trump out of the front-runner slot, used his time to remind us that he is still the quietest person to ever run for president. He hedged on killing Medicare and tried to expand his tax plan beyond tithing. He may well win Iowa but he didn't win the night. Then again, he also admitted that he couldn't see himself in the Oval Office.

By **MARGARET CARLSON**

Bloomberg View

Margaret Carlson is a Bloomberg View columnist. Readers may send her email at mcarlson3@bloomberg.net.

Carly Fiorina stood out for being grim. First, she acknowledged that she hadn't done enough smiling in the last debate and contorted her face into a knowingly sarcastic grin. Later, in a bizarre echo of Cruz's earlier comment about a cage match, she used her closing statement to sell her candidacy as an opportunity for voters to see her take on Hillary Clinton in a catfight.

Bush may have lost his chance to recover, but Rubio didn't miss the opportunity to stand his ground if not advance. The tensest moment came in the first half hour when Bush attacked his former protegee for his poor attendance record in the Senate: "Marco, when you signed up for this, it was a six-year term. You should show up for work." Rubio was ready, firing off stats on every senator who'd ever run for president.

He scored again when Trump boasted of his ability to self-finance his campaign and questioned the morality of his rivals who relied on super PACs. Rubio came back with the evening's most memorable line: "Democrats have the ultimate super PAC. It's called the mainstream media." Christie had the second-best zinger, telling the moderator, John Harwood, that his question would be considered rude even in New Jersey.

Cruz looked better than he has so far in the campaign. He even tried to show a softer side, offering up tequila, famous Colorado brownies (containing marijuana presumably), and a ride home to anyone who might need one. He also tried to cover all the bases: He's anti-cronyism (tea party), suspicious of the Fed and in favor of a gold standard (libertarians), and vowed to defend Social Security (older white voters generally).

On the economy, which was supposed to dominate the night, there wasn't a lot of meat. The most Trump could muster about his plan after it was taken apart by the moderator was that a different CNBC commentator liked it.

The debate wasn't much of a boost for a Republican Party that desperately needs to prove it isn't in complete disarray after the House majority deposed one speaker and had to beg another to take the job. They didn't turn a page or show they were ready to take over the country. There's always next time.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Environmental promises of the EPA and DOI: Can they deliver?

The Pacific Islands Environmental Conference recently concluded its 28th session in June in American Samoa. In attendance were federal agencies led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, private sector interests, non-profit groups, and local island government officials from the U.S. flag areas. The conference was co-sponsored by the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Quality Control, along with the Guam EPA and the host American Samoa EPA.

What caught my attention more than anything else, much to the delight of the predominately American Samoa audience, was the bold vision and proclamation by Jared Blumenthal, Region 9 Administrator of EPA, whose responsibilities encompasses Hawaii and the U.S. Pacific Islands, that the Manua Islands would be targeted as “the first islands in the world to be 100-percent powered by renewable energy.” To this end, he pledged to introduce electric vehicles to the territory, including installing a solar battery storage on Manua. He assured American Samoa that he will work with them to increase recycling, hopefully decreasing their dependence on the need for a landfill.

Blumenthal displayed a keen sensitivity to the Pacific Islands by acknowledging the special relationship that island people have to the ocean. “For generations, Pacific Islanders have learned how to work together to cross the vast ocean. They did this by being wise navigators and by paddling in unison,” said Blumenthal, an obvious nod to our rich cultural heritage of exploration and our penchant of always looking for ways to work together as Pacific Islanders.

He recognized the long-standing concerns that Pacific Island inhabitants harbor of the dangerous and unhealthy materials and substances that are being dumped into the ocean all too easily. He was quick to praise the compliance efforts by Pacific Island governments to implement provisions of the Clean Water Act, aimed at curbing pollution and erosion and to ensure that coastal waters are protected in the face of climate change. Blumenthal pledged to have the EPA do more in partnering with the Department of the Interior’s Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Esther Kia’aina’s office and NOAA to assist the islands with climate adaptation tools for their coastal reefs and water utilities. He also offered kind words for island efforts in utilizing more solar energy in their respective jurisdictions.

Kia’aina also convened a week before Blumenthal’s conference in American Samoa her Climate Change Stakeholder Meeting in Guam. In addition to the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa,

participating officials included the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the U.S. Virgin Islands, NGO representatives, and academicians. Besides offering and discussing myriad ways to handle and manage climate change, the conference at Kia’aina’s insistence was eager to gather information to take back to Washington to position her office to better identify and advocate for funding sources to assist with the implementation of action plans and ideas that arose from the Stakeholder Meeting. She pledged to improve the islands’ “capacities for climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies.”

There is a tendency at times—and it is prevalent in the islands or in underserved or rural communities throughout the nation—to look askance or take a “wait and see approach” when federal government officials make promises that appear to be difficult, challenging, or grandiose. How many times have we reacted by saying, “the rhetoric was beautiful but can they really deliver?” Our doubts and questions are exacerbated when we don’t really know who these federal officials are and have no history of dealing with them.

In the case of Assistant Secretary Kia’aina, we are very familiar with her background. The Guam-born native not only has roots deep in this area but has a track record of accomplishments in Hawaii. Her family resides in a predominantly Native Hawaiian area on Oahu, so in addition to her familiarity with Micronesian issues, she is very well versed in Hawaiian and Polynesian subjects as well. Having worked as a key assistant to former Hawaii U.S. Sen. Dan Akaka and U.S. Rep. Ed Case, she developed an outstanding reputation for being an astute administrator and amassed a wealth of knowledge and contacts in the nation’s capitol. Esther was extremely resourceful and helpful to me when I had to lobby Washington to keep Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard from closing when I was Honolulu mayor. Lastly, she has always had a strong environmental background. Her last government post in Hawaii before she headed off to Washington again was serving as the Deputy Director of the all-important State Department of Land and Natural Resources. Most importantly, in all my personal and professional dealings with Kia’aina, I have found her to be hardworking, trustworthy, and a person of her word. She is the “real deal.”

And what about the San Francisco-based Blumenthal? Unlike Kia’aina, unless you are a government official working on issues dealing with the EPA, it’s safe to say you haven’t heard of him. My position as mayor of Honolulu compelled me to get to know him. Why? Because Honolulu was under a consent degree and

MARIANAS MATTERS

By MUFU HANNEMANN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mufu Hannemann is a Harvard-educated former mayor of Honolulu. He is the principal of MFH Enterprises and is the chair and founder of the Pacific Century Fellows program.



very much on the radar screen for its failure to go to secondary treatment of its wastewater. We were being sued by a who’s who of environmental stakeholders led by the EPA that had a contentious lawsuit against the nation’s 13th largest city. Believe you me, it was a challenge I wished I hadn’t inherited under my watch. However, my DNA is such that I felt Honolulu could no longer afford to continue to kick this problem down the road and we needed to reach a reasonable settlement with EPA, one of the strictest and toughest government agencies.

Fortunately for me, Blumenthal, who was new to his job, shared my opinion and was eager to reach a fair and doable settlement, something his predecessors like mine could not do. What ensued was a series of shuttle diplomacies between Honolulu and San Francisco where we met eyeball to eyeball across the table from each other (we sat most of the time since I stand 6’7” and Blumenthal is about a foot shorter). We developed a relationship based on trust, respect and, in the end, admiration, especially when we accomplished which many deemed impossible—an end to the decades-long costly lawsuit against our city and county. My staff did yeoman work in helping me put a plan in place to commit and transform Honolulu into the 21st century with respect to its sewage and wastewater treatment. Through it all I found Blumenthal to be diligent, honest, and a person of his word. He is also the “real deal.”

The point of all of this is to say to all island government officials and agencies who have to deal with the EPA and DOI, take advantage of these two public servants while they are serving in their capacities. No one is perfect and some issues will be more challenging than others so you need to do your part and be patient and creative with them in the process. Bottom line is, given the importance of climate change and the accompanying plethora of environmental issues, take Jared Blumenthal and Esther Kia’aina at their word and work with them to create a better quality of life for generations to come.

America faces growing threats with a blunted sword

The world’s an even scarier place than it was last year. From the Middle East to the South China Sea, the bad guys have grown stronger and bolder. Meanwhile, our allies and friends—suffering from economies much weaker than ours—are spending less and less on defense.

This means less help available to us, if things go from bad to worse. And U.S. troops will be even more hard-pressed to prevail, since our own military spending has been slashed 15 percent over the last four years. As trend lines go, these are deeply worrisome.

The world changes, whether we want it to or not. Last year, Islamic State was just “a JV team” in the eyes of President Barack Obama. Today, the brutal Islamist group controls a third of the territory in two countries and commands a mobile light infantry army.

Russia began 2014 by flexing its muscles in its so-called near abroad, occupying Crimea and, later, invading Ukraine. Now Putin has pivoted to the Middle East, committing aircraft, missiles tanks and troops to preserve the terror-sponsoring regime of Syrian strongman Bashar Assad—one of the leading human rights abusers of the 21st century. Moscow’s initial attacks in Syria seem largely directed against U.S.-backed Syrian rebels rather than Islamic State.

In 2014, China periodically “pushed” on American friends such as Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. Now Beijing has built artificial islands across the South China Sea and demanded that everyone stay out of their newly expanded territorial waters.

Also last year, Iran was desperate to negotiate for some sanctions relief. Now they’re reaping a windfall: \$150 billion in re-

leased funds, the removal of all restrictions on their conventional military programs (including ballistic missile technologies) and the prospect of resuming their nuclear weapons program in 15 years (or less, if they decide not to play by the rules—again).

The Obama administration’s persistently weak responses to provocation have only encouraged more aggressive behavior by our adversaries. And it’s led our friends to become increasingly dubious about whether America will truly come to their aid, should crisis come.

They’ve seen the U.S. withdraw prematurely from trouble spots. They’ve seen Washington cut troop and military spending year after year. And they know that our Western allies, still caught in the economic doldrums, are less able to provide the kind of force and facilities America has long relied on for support.

Friends who have counted on America to have their backs are now looking over their shoulders and seeing no one there. As a result, Japan is considering developing an independent nuclear capability. The Sunni Gulf States are weighing what sort of weapons capabilities they should obtain to counter Iran’s new strength. The Baltic States are bracing for an invasion; their military leaders say it feels like 1938 again in their capital cities.

Amid all this growing instability, readiness levels across all U.S. military services are falling. There is too little money to train properly; ranges sit idle for lack of bullets, fighter jets are parked for lack of fuel, and America has no aircraft carrier battle group in the Middle East, because we cannot get it fitted for duty. Modernization has been put on hold or drastically cur-

By STEVEN P. BUCCI

The Heritage Foundation

An editor of the newly published Index of U.S. Military Strength, Steven P. Bucci is the director of The Heritage Foundation’s Allison Center for Foreign and National Security Policy.



tailed; basic repair of worn out equipment is the best our troops can hope for.

Beyond the budgetary difficulties, the military has suffered a series of morale sapping slaps from the administration. Having the Justice Department investigate a bombing target incident in Afghanistan suggests the administration mistrusts the Pentagon’s professional ethos and integrity.

And now the president has vetoed the National Defense Authorization Act, because he doesn’t want to increase defense spending unless Congress agrees to raise non-defense budget lines as well. Message to the troops: Defense of the nation is no more critical than subsidizing the sugar industry.

What is the bottom line? At a time of growing threats, when the help available from others is shrinking, the American military is now less ready to defend our national interests than it has been for decades. What is happening is extremely dangerous. We must halt—and reverse—the deterioration of U.S. armed forces.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼77°

WEDNESDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼77°

THURSDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

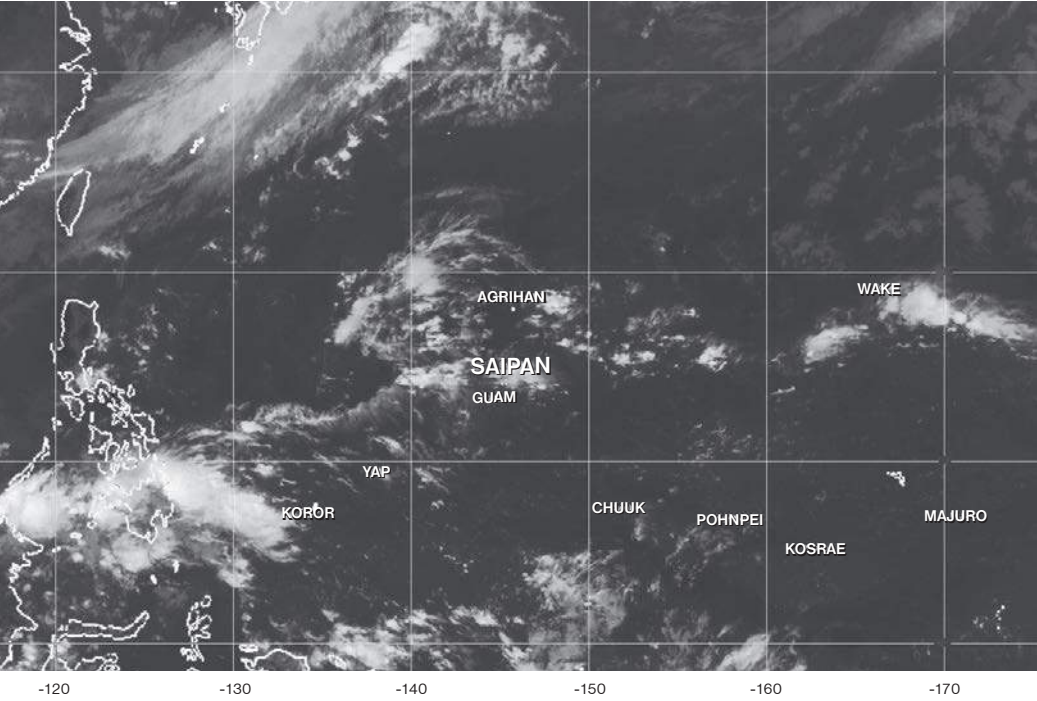
▲87° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered west of the Mariana Islands at 18N134E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the Marianas within 50 miles of a line from 19N140E to 14N146E and within 50 miles of a line from 17N137E to 14N141E. A tropical disturbance is centered over Mindanao near 8N123E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present west of Koror or west of a line from 8N132E to 5N133E. Winds converging near the equator are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of a line from EQ135E to 5N146E to EQ160E. A shear line undulates westward from 15N180 to south of Wake Island at 17N167E to end over the northern CNMI near 17N146E. Patchy areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 60 miles of a line from 16N157E to 16N163E to 19N168E while scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are within 75 miles of a line from 19N168E to 16N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 87	▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Rain	▲ 59	▼ 47
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63	▼ 46
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84	▼ 76
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88	▼ 76
London	Showers	▲ 60	▼ 52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 69	▼ 50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 92	▼ 76
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 83	▼ 62
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼ 76
New York	Sunny	▲ 70	▼ 53
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 73	▼ 55
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61	▼ 53
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 69	▼ 49
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71	▼ 55
Salem	Showers	▲ 56	▼ 41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 63	▼ 52
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 66	▼ 42
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 69	▼ 50
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 72	▼ 50

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
6:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
2:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:14 AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:14 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:14 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:15 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today		12:12 PM
Wednesday	12:04 AM	12:56 PM
Thursday	12:54 AM	1:37 PM
Friday	1:42 AM	2:16 PM
Saturday	2:29 AM	2:55 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA2920	12:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:35am	3:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
OZ626	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	OZ625	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5	OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM	UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
				UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN	OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	2D8010	7:25pm	2:35am+1	Nov 1, 6, 11, 15, 20, 25, 29, Dec 4, 9, 13, 18, 23, 27
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM				
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
2D8009	1:55pm	5:15pm	Nov 1, 6, 11, 15, 20, 25, 29, Dec 4, 9, 13, 18, 23, 27	UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
				UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

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Representatives of Grandvrio Resort, including general manager Akira Takaoka and comptroller Kazunori Kabuki, stopped by Mount Carmel School last week to present an Education Tax Credit donation to school officials and students. Thank you Grandvrio Resort for your generosity and support!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senate honors late Manuel Sablan

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate honored last week the late Manuel Tenorio Sablan for his 52 years of public service that spanned from the U.S. Naval Administration to the Trust Territory Government period, and all the way into the modern-day Commonwealth.

Sablan was honored via Senate Resolution 19-18, which the senators unanimously passed during a session last week.

According to the resolution, Sablan began his career as a police officer under the U.S. Naval Administration days. When the administration ended in 1962, he was appointed to the position of superintendent of the Department of Public Safety under the Trust Territory government, the highest position at the time.

Under this position, Sablan managed the operations of other police stations within six island nations, including Palau, the Marianas, Chuuk, Yap, Pohnpei, and the Marshalls up until the end of the Trust Territory government.

Sablan also served as a special consultant to the CNMI Legislature from 1978 to 1980 and was employed by the Office

Saipan Chamber meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly general membership meeting tomorrow, Nov. 4, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle. The main speaker will be Col. Michael R. Cardoza, USAF, Chief, Strategy and Plans Division. He will address the membership about the revised

divert airfield plan.

Also at this meeting, Chamber members will be voting for their 2016 board members. Each company receives a number of ballots corresponding to their Chamber membership category.

Luncheon begins at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin promptly at noon. (SCC)



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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 24th birthday shoutout to Asako Maui, who is celebrating her special day today, Nov. 3! May God continue to bless you everyday! We love you forever. Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to a granddaughter and grandfather duo, Davierrin Camacho Blas and David Camacho! Hope you enjoyed your birthdays. Greetings come from "Pak-Pak" family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

'It's not the typhoon; it's the termites!'

"You see that?" he asks, pointing to the damage to a residence adjacent his property in Gualo Rai. "Typhoon Soudelor lifted the roof and put it over there, but I'll tell you a secret. It was the termites that made it easy!"

Three months after Soudelor, contractor, Chang Yoon Suk stands on a table and shows me the termite damage to the wooden beams in a still roofless building. "Did you ever see the way the termites eat through wood? It's very beautiful," he adds, revealing his artist's eye for design, then continues our tour, and my education. "A lot of people think that all the damage they see is because of the typhoon. It wasn't."

"As a contractor, after typhoon Soudelor, homeowners asked me to visit their homes and give them quotations. 'What is the problem and how can we fix it?' they ask me. When I look at the overall damage—how the roof separated from the structure—I realized it's actually because of the termites. The termites weaken the structure long before the typhoon. From what I see, if no termite damage, maybe Saipan would have 10% of the damage you see!"

The challenge: (What are we doing wrong?)

Chang describes what typically happens here on Saipan. "People are building their homes with low tin roofs. It's cheap and fast, but there's only about a foot and a half of space—the height of the wooden beams—between the ceiling and the roof, so there is no ventilation—no air moving in between. With the sun shining most of the time, the temperature in-between gets very hot. Once the rain comes, the water sits on the flat roof making it rust. Once the tin rusts, leaks develop, and we get moisture between the ceiling and roof, and the wooden beams inside get wet. Termites are attracted to the darkness, humidity and the damp lumber...easier to eat. The termites



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Chang Yoon Suk sits on flat roof sample with ventilated "A frame" samples in background.

eat the wood, loosening the connections, and now your roof is not really connected to your house any longer. With the next strong wind, it can fly away! The whole roof, not a part of it. The whole thing!"

The solution: (How can we fix this?)

"For me, I've been working on this idea for quite some time, not just since the typhoon. I always think about how I can save energy because of high electric rates. I've thought about solar power, but it was not practical for everybody here on Saipan, and CUC stopped the 'net metering' program [where customers who generate their own electricity can feed it back to the grid and receive a credit], so I had to think about other ways. I looked for materials and construction methods that were economical, easy to use, and stronger than lumber"

"Now, look at this," Chang says as he shows me his models. "If you build a higher 'A roof' like this, and create ventilation holes on the sides as well as the front [a Gable vent], you can solve the problem. Yes, it's

a little more expensive, but look at all the benefits."

Less humidity: (What are the benefits?)

"The air flowing through the structure makes the whole house cooler. It cuts down on the humidity in the structure. Less humidity is also better for your appliances. The electronics, wires and metal parts of your appliances are all affected by the humidity. It's better for the overall structure. For concrete, when reinforcement bars inside the concrete get damp, the rusted bars expand and crack the concrete. And, for wood, it reduces the termites."

Fast construction: (What is the best way to rebuild after a typhoon?)

"Of course, the fastest is using tin with lumber," Chang replies. "So, after Soudelor, many people just rebuilt the same structures they had before. FEMA only paid for replacing the same materials, not for upgrading."

However, for those who can afford it, Chang suggests pre-fabricated ["pre-fab"] panels for

the overall construction—roofs as well as walls. For his projects, he uses a special design imported from Korea that reduces construction time.

"Think about this," he explains. "A 20-foot by 9-foot concrete structure, made with hollow block, including plastering, takes at least three weeks [without interior/exterior decoration]. The same structure, using pre-fab takes four days! Four days vs. twenty-one days. So, with this method, you can reduce construction cost and typhoon recovery time."

Easier maintenance and repair: (How long will it last?)

"If you use steel for the structure, it lasts longer, but it's also easier to repair if there is damage. If a steel beam gets damaged, you can cut out a piece and weld in another, but if a wooden beam gets compromised, you have to replace the whole thing."

"You know, in other climates, wooden structures can last many years. The change in temperature each season from cold to hot to cold keeps the termites away. In Saipan, where it's al-

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Walt F.J. Goodridge is the creator of several websites and author of several books specifically about Saipan including *Saipan Living*, *Doing Business on Saipan*, *Chicken Feathers & Garlic Skin*, *The Jamaican on Saipan* and *Saipan Now: a photo adventure*. See them all at www.bestofsaipan.com

ways hot, the termites are very happy. Sometimes you're lucky if it lasts one year!"

Alternatives: (What if I can't afford it?)

Now, if you can't afford pre-fab panels or steel structure, you can still build the same 'A roof' structure using tin. Chang shows me his display samples—reduced scale models of roofs—using both the pre-fab panels as well as the tin. Even with tin, the Gable vent & cooling principle still work, and it's not much more expensive. [Watch video demonstrations of flat tin vs. vented prefab roof www.saipanliving.com/specific]

Saipan-specific (How much more will it cost me?)

Let's calculate what that actual cost might be. A 40ft x 8ft (container-sized) structure with a 2ft roof overhang all around would require (44' x 12' =) 528sq.ft of coverage for a flat roof. Using Chang's design of a 3.5ft high A-frame instead would require (44' x 7' x 2sides=) 616sq.ft. That's just 16% more tin. Based on how the tin is sold (\$38 for a \$19ft x 31in panel; Guangdong), you might even be able to cover the A frame roof for the same cost of materials, (plus labor, and a little extra for additional wood.)

Summary

"Many countries are already using these energy-efficient systems. I'm already using the pre-fab system here on Saipan. It's safe, fire-resistant, energy-

efficient, faster to build and easier to repair. This makes it a perfect fit for Saipan, and not only after a typhoon, but any time in the future. Typhoon, tropical storm or hurricane—we're going to have the same problem again and again because of the humidity and termites. Don't keep doing this. Don't keep repeating the mistakes of the past. Spend a little more now, and long term you spend less money on air conditioning, you

live healthier, your things last longer, and you're ready for the next typhoon!"

Later in the day, while driving along Beach Road, we pass an *utt*. "You see that?" Chang asks. "That same high roof is how the Chamorros and Carolinians used to build their homes. Good ventilation. Very smart."

Chang Yoon Suk was born in Korea, and was raised and attended elementary and high school on Saipan. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the University of Guam, a General Construction license here on Saipan, and an NCCER certificate (National Center for Construction Education and Research) from The Northern Marianas Trade Institute (2013). He is the owner of D. System Construction, founded in 2007, and recently won the bid over six other companies to work on one of the new hotels on island. His interior design work can be found in DFS Galleria, Marianas Eye Institute and other locations. Contact him at dsystemsaiipan@gmail.com. View samples of his work at www.saipanliving.com/dsystem

Prices, politics challenge health law's 3rd sign-up season

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government's insurance website is faster and easier to use, but as a third sign-up season gets underway, President Barack Obama's health care law is approaching limits.

Enrollment on the federal and state exchanges began Sunday. While the law's expanded coverage has reduced the uninsured rate to a historic low of about 9 percent, the gains will be harder in 2016.

Supporters may feel they're running to stay in place, rather than taking a victory lap during the president's last full year in office.

The reasons have to do with the structure of the complicated law, the effects of a major change introduced by the Su-

preme Court and political divisions likely to be magnified in an election year.

The fate of the Affordable Care Act—known as "Obamacare" to its detractors—is very much in the hands of the next president. A weak sign-up season could embolden opponents who are so far unwilling to relent.

The law's two major engines of coverage expansion face challenges simultaneously.

Costs are going up on the private, taxpayer-subsidized coverage sold through HealthCare.gov and state insurance exchanges, and many of the more than 10 million eligible uninsured Americans are skeptics. They tend to be younger people on tight budgets, with other priorities for spending

their money.

A sharp increase in fines may sway at least some fence-sitters. In 2016, the penalty will rise to \$695 or 2.5 percent of taxable income, whichever is higher. This year, the fine is the greater of \$325 or 2 percent of income.

On the law's Medicaid expansion, the other big mechanism driving coverage, the limitations are clearer and perhaps more consequential.

The 2012 Supreme Court decision that upheld the law's individual coverage requirement also gave states the choice to decline expanding Medicaid. Across the South, Republican-led states have turned down the Medicaid option, leaving millions uninsured.

Many are trapped in what's

called the "Medicaid gap." They cannot get health insurance through HealthCare.gov because the law prevents people below the poverty line from using the insurance exchanges. So the private insurance alternative is closed to them, even as their states refuse to expand public coverage.

Among them is John Davis of Port Charlotte, Florida, a 49-year-old construction worker unemployed because of health problems. A doctor at a free clinic is monitoring a suspicious spot on his lungs. "They won't biopsy it. Nobody will touch it because I don't have insurance," Davis said. "I feel like I'm walking around with a time bomb on my back and I can't see the timer."

BankPacific promotes Tudela on Saipan

BankPacific president Philip Flores announced today the promotion of Lee Tudela to the position of office supervisor in the bank's Saipan office.



"Lee has worked Tudela hard and has moved up from a teller when he joined us in 2003. He was promoted to head teller in 2013 and today Lee and his

family should be proud of his newest promotion. I know we at the bank are," said Flores. Lee joined the bank after graduating from Marianas High School. He has over 12 years of experience in BankPacific's Operations and has played a key role in the management team. (PR)

Nation

Ryan: No comprehensive immigration overhaul with Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Speaker Paul Ryan on Sunday ruled out a comprehensive overhaul of the immigration system while President Barack Obama is in office.

The new leader of the Republican-controlled House said in several interviews Sunday that he will not work with Obama because the president went around Congress with an executive order to shield from deportation millions of people living here illegally.

"I don't think we can trust the president on this issue," Ryan said on NBC's "Meet the Press" and other programs. "I do not believe we should advance comprehensive immigration legislation with a president who has proven himself untrustworthy on this issue."

The decision puts off any prospect of addressing a comprehensive immigration over-

Rep. Paul Ryan

The Wisconsin Republican was elected House speaker Thursday.

Political career

1999-present: U.S. representative from Wisconsin

2012: Republican vice presidential candidate

2013-2015: Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget

2015: Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means

2015: Speaker of the House

Source: U.S. Congress, TNS Photo Service
Graphic: Tribune News Service

haul until at least 2017—after the presidential race and Obama's departure from office. It leaves the legislation stalled in the House and without a chance of being revived in the Senate.

For Ryan, the move removes the prospects of a clash with the same House conservatives who made John Boehner's life difficult and helped push Boehner into retirement. Ryan was a proponent of the stalled

comprehensive immigration bill, and conservatives had been concerned that he would try to revive it as speaker.

What concerns Ryan, he said on "Fox News Sunday," is the congressional Republicans' focus on tactics, rather than what he called, "vision."

"We have none," Ryan said. "We have to have a vision and offer an alternative to this country so that they can see that if we

get a chance to lead, if we get the presidency, and if we keep Congress, this is what it will look like. This is how we'll fix the problems that working families are facing."

Clashing with Obama over an issue as complex and volatile as comprehensive immigration reform, Ryan suggested, is not helpful for the GOP now.

He said it's possible to get smaller immigration-related

policy passed.

"If we believe and have consensus on things like border enforcement and interior security, then fine," he said on ABC's "This Week."

Obama issued directives a year ago that gave temporary relief from deportation to about 4 million immigrants in the country illegally, along with permits authorizing them to work in the U.S.

New plant tests US appetite for seawater desalination

CARLSBAD, Calif. (AP)—There's far more riding on the Americas' largest seawater desalination plant than the 50 million gallons of drinking water it will produce for the San Diego area each day.

The plant, which opens this year, will help determine the future of seawater desalination in the U.S. The billion-dollar project is only the nation's second major seawater plant. The first U.S. foray in Tampa Bay is widely considered a flop.

"You have to be able to say we did it there, it worked there," said Peter Beland, North America editor for Global Water Intelligence, which tracks the industry.

Supporters consider seawater desalination a partial answer to drought in the U.S. Opponents say high costs and threats to marine life leave better alternatives, like recycling and conservation.

Huge by U.S. standards, Carlsbad barely cracks the International Desalination Association's list of 50 largest seawater plants, which are mostly in the Middle East. Its Israeli designer modeled it on one in Tel Aviv that produces nearly three times the water.

Tampa, which has half the capacity of Carlsbad, opened in 2007, a decade after it went to bid. Along the way, a key investor declared bankruptcy, its replacement failed to secure fi-



The Carlsbad, Calif. desalination plant, seen in a Friday, Sept. 4, 2015 photo, borders Interstate 5 on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other in Carlsbad, Calif.

nancing and the plant repeatedly failed performance tests.

San Diego County Water Authority officials vowed to "Tampa-proof" their effort, tapping experienced builders and getting developer Poseidon Resources LLC to shoulder much of the risk. In return, the Boston-based company will get a 9.66 percent return on investment, even more if it hits certain targets.

The plant uses a well-proven technology called reverse osmosis, which uses powerful pumps to shoot ocean water through 2,000 white fiberglass tubes to

capture salts. First, silt and other solids are removed to prevent membranes from clogging—a task that hobbled the Tampa plant. Treated water is pumped uphill on a new 10-mile pipeline to San Diego's existing grid.

"Each element, each building block of the plant is something that has worked before elsewhere," said Avshalom Felber, chief executive of IDE Technologies, the plant designer. "That wasn't the case in Tampa."

San Diego began considering desalination in the early 1990s when drought exposed dependence on water brought

hundreds of miles from Northern California and the Colorado River. It picked Carlsbad, a prosperous suburb of 110,000 people, because it could draw water from a power plant next door that uses up to 600 million gallons from the ocean daily to cool turbines.

Under a 30-year agreement, the regional agency will pay up to \$2,367 an acre-foot, more than double what it will pay to import water next year from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. (An acre-foot supplies two typical households for a year.)

ACROSS THE NATION

Police investigate if medical issue caused Halloween crash

NEW YORK (AP)—Investigators of a horrific Halloween crash that killed three people including a 10-year-old girl are looking at whether a medical problem may have caused a motorist to smash into a group of New York City trick-or-treaters, police said Sunday. The car jumped a curb in the Bronx on Saturday evening, leaving behind mangled bodies and bloodied costumes as neighbors ran to help. Police were examining whether the driver may have suffered a medical emergency, such as a seizure. A 65-year-old grandfather, Louis Perez, suffered severe head trauma and died at the scene, police said. His granddaughter, 10-year-old Nyanna Aquil, was pronounced dead at a hospital. The girl's 3-year-old sister was also hospitalized. Another man, 24-year-old Kristian Leka, was also killed. His 9-year-old sister and a 21-year-old female friend were also injured but not critically.

Reports of Halloween candy with 'needle-type' object probed

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (AP)—Authorities in Pennsylvania and Minnesota are investigating reports of needle-like objects found in Halloween candy while police in Massachusetts say someone left out samples of cough syrup for trick-or-treaters. Police in the Philadelphia suburb of Kennett Square said a "needle-type item" was reported inside wrapped candy bars given to five children Saturday. Investigators said Sunday the candy

and packaging containing the objects have been submitted for examination. They urged parents to check all candy their children were given and any leftover candy bought to give to trick-or-treaters. Police in central Minnesota also were investigating after a woman reported finding a needle in her child's candy on Halloween. The woman in Brainerd said she found the needle in a small candy bar while inspecting the candy in her child's bag.

US Episcopal Church installs first black leader

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, installed Sunday as the first black leader of the U.S. Episcopal Church, urged Episcopalians to evangelize by crossing divides of race, education and wealth. Curry used the example of his own mother being given Communion at a white Episcopal parish before desegregation, and how that act persuaded his father to join the denomination, and eventually become a priest. "God has not given up on the world and God is not finished with the Episcopal Church yet," Curry said, during a joyous ceremony in the Washington National Cathedral. Curry, 62, succeeds Katharine Jefferts Schori, who was the first woman in the job and is ending her nine-year term. He served about 15 years as leader of the Diocese of North Carolina before he was overwhelmingly elected last summer to the top church post. He grew up in Buffalo, New York, and earned degrees from Hobart College in Geneva, New York, and Yale Divinity School. (AP)

Witnesses describe gunman's rampage in Colorado Springs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Witnesses on Sunday described a terrifying scene on the streets of Colorado Springs, where a gunman armed with a rifle marched down a city street and shot and killed three people before being fatally shot in a gunbattle with police.

Authorities have released few details about Saturday morning's shooting in broad daylight. The suspect and victims have not been identified, and police are looking for a motive.

A neighbor, Teresa Willingham, said she and her 7-year-old son heard three loud gunshots and saw a bicyclist lying face down in the street, his legs

mangled and still intertwined in his bike.

"His last words were 'Please God, no,'" she said. "He was just at the wrong place at the wrong time."

A neighbor, Naomi Bettis, who lives across the street, said she saw a man in a green jacket with a rifle, walking down the street. She saw him go into a house, and come out with a gun. She said the man headed down the block, and a bicyclist came up.

Bettis said the bicyclist begged for his life, but the gunman started shooting.

Bettis said the bicyclist collapsed outside a house. She later

placed a bouquet of flowers, a candle and a note where the bicyclist was slain, saying "My thoughts are with you. Praying for the family. I'm sorry for your loss."

Matthew Abshire, who lives nearby, told The Associated Press that he heard gunshots, looked out his window and saw a man firing a rifle. He waited for the gunfire to subside before he came outside and started chasing after the gunman, who had a rifle in his right hand and a revolver in his left. Abshire stayed about 30 yards behind him until he said the gunman turned and aimed the gun in his direction,

prompting him to dive onto a porch to hide.

"He walked calmly and collectedly. His demeanor was like he was having a stroll in the park," Abshire said.

Abshire continued walking behind the man, who he said abruptly fired at two women on the porch of another house which is a home for women in recovery. A woman sitting on a bench was shot as well as another one who was standing next to her, Abshire said.

"It looked totally random," he said.

He rushed to help them, using his shirt as a tourniquet. He said one of the women had no pulse.

Asia

In Central Asia, Kerry talks to autocratic cast of nations

SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with some of the world's most repressive governments Sunday, hoping to deepen America's economic and security ties in Central Asia despite the often poor respect for human rights across the strategic region.

A day after visiting the area's only parliamentary democracy, Kerry engaged in a difficult balancing act. The countries he spoke with included two still ruled by the only presidents they've ever known and another whose leader has been in power more than two decades. But given their geography just north of unstable Afghanistan, and squeezed by the political influence of Russia and commercial dominance of China, the United States has an interest in maintaining and cultivating even stronger ties.

"In Central Asia as elsewhere, people have a deep hunger for governments that are accountable and effective," Kerry told the foreign ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The agenda for the six-nation talks was far broader, however,

promoting greater commercial activity among the five former Soviet republics and increased security cooperation to counter the Islamic State's activities.

No one else mentioned human rights or democracy, but Kerry said economic projects are "closely related to the quality of governance and the strength of democratic institutions."

Arriving in the ancient Silk Road city of Samarkand, Kerry was greeted at the airport by President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, whose rights record is routinely described as atrocious.

In its annual human rights report, the State Department lambasted Karimov's government for torturing detainees, rigging elections, imposing widespread religious restrictions and imprisoning people of all faiths. Human rights groups say forced labor remains pervasive in the country's cotton fields and that thousands have been convicted of "extremism" in closed trials after confessions obtained through torture. Corruption reigns with impunity.

Karimov and Kerry didn't take any questions when a small group of journalists was briefly permitted into their meeting at



AP
Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov, left, looks on while Uzbek President Islam Karimov, center, and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, right, shake hands at Samarkand Airport in Samarkand, Uzbekistan Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015.

a presidential residence. The larger meeting took place after.

The human rights situation appears little better among Uzbekistan's neighbors.

The State Department says Kazakhstan's citizens lack free speech, press, assembly and religion, while groups such as Human Rights Watch say the authorities regularly jail peaceful protesters and fine and detain worshippers of religions outside of state control.

Other reported abuses included unlawful killings.

Tajikistan is an "authoritarian state," according to Kerry's agency. Authorities there recently banned the opposition Islamic Renaissance Party and arrested 78 of its members. Even their lawyer was arrested, while a former presidential candidate is serving a 29-year prison term. In March, assailants shot and killed a Tajik opposition figure

in Istanbul under mysterious circumstances. Ahead of Kerry's trip, a U.S. official noted that Tajikistan cracks down on men with long beards.

Turkmenistan, meanwhile, is one of the world's most closed societies. Few human rights monitors exist in the country.

Rights groups on the outside say it is impossible to determine how many political prisoners the government is holding, while some have simply disappeared in prisons, cut off from contact with their families and the outside world. The State Department cites a litany of abuses including arbitrary arrest, torture, lack of privacy and human trafficking, while noting that no government officials have been prosecuted for human rights infractions.

US, South Korea pledge to strengthen defenses

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The U.S. and South Korea are pledging to strengthen their combined defenses against what they call threats by North Korea, but they announced no specific new steps toward a long-delayed transfer of war-time control of South Korean forces from the U.S. military to the South Korean government.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter called North Korea an "up-close, dangerous and continuing threat."

Carter appeared at a news

conference with his South Korean counterpart, Han Min-koo, who said his country would not tolerate further military provocations by the North.

In a joint written statement issued after closed-door meetings, they condemned North Korea's recent suggestion that it intends to conduct a long-range missile launch or nuclear test.

Of particular worry in South Korea is the North's nuclear arsenal, which may be expanding in defiance of international efforts to persuade Pyongyang to give

up its nuclear weapons and long-range missiles, which could pose a threat not only to the South but also to Japan and others.

"In the face of increasing threats, especially in the form of nuclear and missile threats from North Korea, we also agreed that the alliance needs to work in various ways to cooperate and to rise against and respond against these threats," the South Korean defense minister, Han, said at the outset of annual security consultations.

Carter said the alliance "has

never been stronger," and he called the American commitment to South Korea "iron-clad."

Also participating in the Seoul talks were the new chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, and the commander of U.S. Pacific Command, Adm. Harry Harris. Dunford also was planning to visit the heavily guarded buffer zone separating North and South Korea. Harris was scheduled to fly to Beijing for his first visit to China as commander of Pacific forces.

Bangladesh police probe local radicals in latest attacks

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Police in Bangladesh said Sunday that they were investigating the possibility a local radical Islamic group was behind two attacks on publishing houses in the capital this weekend that left a publisher of secular books dead and another critically wounded.

The banned group Ansarullah Bangla Team is the main focus of an investigation into Saturday's attacks, Muniur Islam, a senior police detective, told reporters. The two publishers who were apparently targeted in the attacks had links to a blogger who was killed earlier this year in an attack claimed by Ansarullah Bangla Team.

"Our focus is on those who work under the umbrella of Ansarullah Bangla Team," Islam said.

Publisher Faisal Arefin Deepan was hacked to death in his Dhaka office in the second attack Saturday. The first attack left publisher Ahmed Rahim Tutul in critical condition, while two writers suffered less serious wounds.

Deepan's Jagriti publishing house and Tutul's Shudhhdhowsar had both published works of Bangladeshi-American blogger and writer Avijit Roy, who was hacked to death in February as he walked on the campus of Dhaka University with his wife.

Roy is one of four atheist bloggers murdered in Bangladesh this year. Ansarullah Bangla Team had claimed responsibility for all four of those attacks and recently threatened to kill more bloggers.

On Sunday, the English language Daily Star newspaper

reported that another publisher—Farid Ahmed of Somoy publishing house—received a death threat for publishing the works of atheists. Ahmed could not be reached for comment.

Another militant group, Ansar al-Islam, the Bangladesh division of al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent, issued a statement Saturday claiming responsibility for the attacks on Deepan and Tutul, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist online postings. The claim of responsibility could not be independently verified.

Dozens of teachers, intellectuals and students rallied at Dhaka University on Sunday to protest Saturday's attacks.

Bangladesh has been rocked by a series of attacks this year claimed by Islamic extremists, including the blogger killings and, more recently, the killings of two foreigners—an Italian aid worker and a Japanese agricultural worker. An Oct. 24 bomb attack on thousands of Shiite Muslims in Dhaka killed a teenage boy and injured more than 100 other people.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks on the two foreigners and the bombing, but Bangladesh's government has rejected that the extremist Sunni militant group has any presence in the country.

The government has instead blamed domestic Islamist militants along with Islamist political parties—specifically the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its main ally, Jamaat-e-Islami—for orchestrating the violence to destabilize the impoverished nation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tens of thousands in Myanmar turn out for Suu Kyi rally

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi addressed a huge rally on the outskirts of Myanmar's biggest city Sunday, offering a message of reconciliation with political opponents if her party sweeps the upcoming general election. Suu Kyi also called for calm and stability as the campaign period nears its end ahead of the Nov. 8 election. Tens of thousands of ecstatic National League for Democracy supporters swarmed onto a large playing field, waiting for hours in the blazing sunshine for Suu Kyi to make her entrance. She had hoped to hold the rally in the center of Yangon, near the revered

Shwedagon Pagoda, reviving memories of her first-ever political speech in 1988, but city authorities refused her request. The 1988 speech put her on a collision course with the then-military junta and marked the beginning of Suu Kyi's long and often difficult political odyssey.

China unveils jetliner in bid to compete with Boeing, Airbus

SHANGHAI (AP)—The first plane produced by a Chinese government initiative to compete in the market for large passenger jetliners has been unveiled in Shanghai. The Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China showed off its twin-engine C919 in a ceremony Monday attended by some

4,000 government officials and other guests at a hangar near the Pudong International Airport. China's aviation market is growing fast but relies on Boeing and Airbus aircraft. The ruling Communist Party wants to claw back some of the commercial benefits that flow to foreign suppliers. The state-owned manufacturer says it has received orders from 21 customers for a total of 517 aircraft, mostly from Chinese carriers but also from GE Capital Aviation Services.

Australia dumps titles knights and dames from honors awards

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia is dumping the titles "knights" and "dames"—again. The govern-

ment had scratched the honorary titles, granted for public service, in 1986 as anachronisms. But former Prime Minister Tony Abbott revived them a year ago during his time in office and was widely ridiculed for making Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth II's husband, a knight on Australia's national day earlier this year, instead of honoring a worthy Australian. Many point to the decision as the beginning of the end of Abbott's tenure. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who took over from Abbott in September, announced on Monday that the queen had agreed to an Australian Cabinet recommendation to remove knights and dames from the Order of Australia.

World

Official: Russian jet broke up at high altitude over Egypt

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP)—The Russian jetliner that crashed shortly after takeoff from an Egyptian resort city broke up at high altitude, scattering fragments of wreckage over a wide area in the Sinai Peninsula, Russia's top aviation official said Sunday as search teams raced to recover the bodies of the 224 people who died.

Meanwhile in Russia, an outpouring of grief gripped the historic city of St. Petersburg, home of many of the victims. President Vladimir Putin declared a nationwide day of mourning, and flags flew at half-staff.

Aviation experts joined the searchers in a remote part of the Sinai, seeking any clues to what caused the Metrojet Airbus A321-200 to plummet abruptly from 31,000 feet just 23 minutes after it departed from the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh bound for St. Petersburg.

Aviation experts and the search teams were combing an area of 16 square kilometers (more than 6 square miles) to find bodies and pieces of the jet.

By midday, 163 bodies had been recovered, according to the Egyptian government. Some of the dead were expected to be flown to Russia later Sunday.

In St. Petersburg, hundreds of mourners brought flowers, pictures of the victims, stuffed animals and paper planes to the city's airport. Others went to churches and lit candles in memory of the dead.

Elena Vikhareva had no relatives aboard the flight, but she went with her son to lay flowers, saying that pain was "piercing" her heart.

Vladimir Povarov and a friend did the same, explaining that they couldn't "remain indifferent."

The large area over which fragments were found indicates the jet disintegrated while flying high, said Alexander Neradko, head of Russia's federal aviation agency. He would not comment on any possible reason for the crash, citing the ongoing investigation.

Neradko was in Egypt to inspect the crash site along with



In this photo released by the Prime Minister's office, Sherif Ismail, right, looks at the remains of a crashed passenger jet in Hassana, Egypt on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2015.

Russia's emergency and transport ministers.

Transport Minister Maxim Sokolov thanked Egyptian authorities for their help and said work on analyzing the data and cockpit voice recorders had not yet begun.

An Egyptian ground service official who carried out a pre-flight inspection of the plane said the aircraft appeared to be in good shape. Speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, he said he was a member

of a technical inspection team that included two Russians.

"We are all shocked. It was a good plane. Everything checked out in 35 minutes," the official told The Associated Press on Sunday. The closest the plane came to being in trouble, he said, was three months ago when the pilot aborted takeoff halfway through because of a system error. "That's almost routine though," he said.

However, a Russian TV channel late Saturday quoted the wife of the co-pilot as saying her husband had complained

about the plane's condition. Natalya Trukhacheva, identified as the wife of Sergei Trukhachev, said a daughter "called him up before he flew out. He complained before the flight that the technical condition of the aircraft left much to be desired."

An Egyptian official had previously said that before the plane lost contact with air traffic controllers, the pilot radioed that the aircraft was experiencing technical problems and that he intended to try to land at the nearest airport.



A Russian aircraft carrying 224 crashed killing all aboard

Airbus A321 Passengers: 185 to 220

Length: 145 ft., 9 in. (44.5 m)

Wingspan: 117 ft., 4 in. (35.8 m)

Range: 3,697 nautical miles

The A321 is the largest aircraft of the A320 family

Source: AP, BBC, Airbus
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Somalia: 5 Islamic militants attack hotel in capital, kill 6

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Five of Somalia's Islamic extremists attacked a leading hotel in the capital at dawn Sunday, killing at least six people and injuring 10, before all the assailants were killed by security forces.

The Somali army and the African Union forces ended the siege by the al-Shabab attackers at the Sahafi Hotel by midday, police commander Ali Ahmed said.

"It's over now. We have killed all the attackers," Ahmed told The Associated Press by telephone. "They came under cover of darkness and attacked the hotel while some of the guards were sleeping."

The attack started at daybreak when a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at the hotel's entrance gate and then four men, armed with AK-47 rifles, propelled grenades and suicide vests, invaded the premises. Some of them went into rooms to kill residents while others went to the hotel's rooftop to fight off government soldiers who came to battle them, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein, a senior Somali police officer.

A second explosion came from a car bomb outside the hotel, said witnesses. Among those killed was the hotel's owner and a former military general, Hussein said. "Had it not been for the courage of some of the hotel residents who fought back the terrorists, the death toll could

have been a lot higher than it is now," Hussein said.

"They came in firing bullets randomly and chanting God is great—they shot anyone they could see," said a surviving hotel resident, Ahmed Abdulle.

"The guards tried to fight them off but it was too late, they were already inside," said Abdulle by phone from Mogadishu. "I hid myself under my bed until security forces broke into my room and got me out a back door. It was a terrible experience."

Al-Shabab, the Islamic extremist rebels waging an insurgency against Somalia's weak U.N.-backed government, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement by Sheikh Abdiqazib Abu-Musab, the insurgents' military spokesman, delivered on the group's radio station, Andulus.

Al-Shabab called the attack "a powerful blow" that targeted government officials who had sought sanctuary in the hotel and vowed there will be "no safe haven" for Somali leaders and their African Union allies, in a press release translated by the SITE Intelligence Group which monitors jihadi online postings.

Somali troops and African Union forces fought to take control of the hotel, according to a Twitter post by the African Union Mission in Somalia, which has deployed troops to bolster Somalia's government against al-Shabab's insurgency.

Romania: Nightclub death toll to rise 'significantly'

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Romanians wept, cursed and prayed Sunday as they mourned the victims of a fire in a nightclub, while doctors warned the death toll could rise "significantly" because so many of the injured have severe burns.

As the nation entered its second day of mourning, thousands paid their respects at the Colectiv nightclub in Bucharest's 4th district—the scene of Friday's tragedy that so far has killed 30 people and left dozens badly burned.

In a separate show of grief,

thousands walked silently through the capital city of 3 million Sunday afternoon, carrying flowers and photographs of the dead.

About 140 people are still hospitalized around the Romanian capital. Of those, 90 are in serious condition, said Raed Arafat, an emergency situations official. He added that the death toll could double.

Treating victims of a nightclub fire is more complicated than treating someone for a localized burn, Arafat said.

"Many sustained burns to

their trachea and lungs, aggravated by the kind of noxious gasses you find in foam and furniture which give off toxic substances such as cyanide. Also many people were trampled on," he said. "From this point of view, the prognostic and chances (of survival) are reduced."

Ioan Lascar, a doctor at the Floreasca Emergency Hospital agreed the death toll could rise "significantly" because so many of the injured have severe burns.

"Treatment for burns is the most complex and costly treat-

ment imaginable," he said. "We are talking about long-term hospitalization: a month, a month and a half, two, sometimes even more."

Lascar said the emergency hospital had performed 11 tracheotomies over the weekend to help victims of the accident breathe because they had suffered burns to their lungs. The procedure involves an incision being made to the windpipe, after which a tube is inserted which is connected to a ventilation machine that provides more oxygen to the lungs.

Haitians flow into cemeteries to mark Voodoo day of the dead

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Revelers streamed into cemeteries across Haiti on Sunday bearing beeswax candles, food offerings and bottles of rum infused with hot peppers to mark the country's annual Voodoo festival of the dead.

At Port-au-Prince's sprawling national cemetery, Voodoo priests and priestesses gathered around a blackened monument that is believed to be the oldest grave. There, they lit candles and stoked small fires as they evoked the spirit Baron Samedi,

the guardian of the dead who is typically depicted with a dark top hat and a white skull face.

Some filled their mouths with fiery rum and sprayed it over the tomb's cross. As if in a trance, one young man wrapped in a paisley print sheet chewed up bits of a broken glass bottle, but onlookers who scrambled on burial vaults to get a better look didn't buy his performance. "Thief!" they shouted, as he spat out blood.

Minutes later, the crowd perched atop the tombs gave re-

spect to a priestess with a purple scarf wrapped around her head as she danced in a spastic manner and made a keening lament.

Other Haitians gathered among the tombs to quietly remember dead relatives and ask spirits to grant favors or provide guidance. One man paid a soothsayer for advice on how to increase his chances at winning bets at Haitian outlets that play on New York State Lottery numbers.

Vendors who set up shop in the cemeteries did a brisk busi-

ness selling pictures of Catholic saints alongside candles, rum, and rosary beads.

Voodoo, or Vodou as preferred by Haitians, evolved in the 17th century when colonists brought slaves to Haiti from West Africa. Slaves forced to practice Catholicism adopted saints to coincide with personalities in the African religions. Voodoo was sanctioned as an official religion in 2003 and it is practiced widely across the country of 10 million inhabitants.

Focus

China's leaders ease birth limits but keep control

By JOE McDONALD
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING (AP)—The Communist Party's decision to ease limits on family size makes China a bit less restrictive but is a reminder of the party's pervasive role in society.

The 35-year-old policy that limited most urban couples to one child is a holdover from an era of intrusive controls that dictated where Chinese worked and lived—even whom they could marry. The latest change, driven by a need for more young workers, allows married couples two children but affirms party power over what most societies consider a basic right.

Thursday's announcement was a reminder that many official policies treat the Chinese public as economic raw material. It cited a need to "improve the balanced development of population," rather than to give people more control over their lives.

"This is a technical change, a policy change, rather than a political change," said Joseph Cheng, a retired political scientist formerly at the City University of Hong Kong. "If you try to have more than two children, you still get sanctions. So the state retains that kind of power."

The change is part of the Communist Party's relentless, gradual policy changes that are aimed at making China rich while retaining the party's monopoly on power.

Communist leaders relaxed other social controls over the past 30 years as they rolled out market-style economic reforms. If entrepreneurs were to create



In this Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012, file photo, a Chinese woman plays with her grandchild at the Ritan Park in Beijing.

wealth and jobs, they needed to be allowed to pick where to work and travel.

On the political front, though, the party says it never will share power and jails pro-democracy activists on subversion charges.

Birth limits were imposed in 1979 to conserve resources and proved more durable because of the intensity of the ruling party's worries about shortages of farmland and water.

The party says the controls led to 400 million fewer births, making possible the economic boom of the past three

decades. But enforcing them led to draconian measures, including forced abortions.

As recently as 2010, authorities in the southern city of Puning pressured couples to consent to sterilization by detaining 1,377 of their relatives, according to the human rights group Amnesty International.

Policy experts have warned for more than a decade that birth limits were pushing up China's average age, raising the danger that it would have too few workers to support a growing pop-

ulation of retirees.

That crunch is starting to hit. China had one of Asia's highest median ages at 37.3 years in 2014, and that could rise to 40 by 2025, according to Euro-monitor International, a research firm. It said the size of the working-age population aged 15 to 64 is set to decline starting next year.

That prompted some provinces in 2006 to allow an additional child for couples who were both only children. In 2013, that was expanded to allow two children for families in which only one parent was an only child.

The party might have gained confidence from the fact that only a limited number of parents took advantage of the 2013 change.

About 1.45 million couples, or 13 percent of the 11 million eligible, applied for permission to have a second child as of May, according to the National Health and Family Planning Commission. That was in line with a seeming decline in interest in child-bearing overall: The government forecast 20 million births in 2014 but the commission said only 16.9 million were recorded.

Many might have been put off by the soaring cost of raising a child in a cramped apartment in increasingly urbanized China. That is estimated at anywhere from 40,000 to 100,000 yuan (\$6,500 to \$16,000) a year.

"It already is a struggle for people to buy one house, not to say to buy another one for the second child," Joy Huang, a researcher for Euromonitor, said in an email.

Others who grew up in the era of single children see small families as normal, said Lu Jiehua, a Peking University sociologist who studies population.

"Couples born in the '80s and '90s are quite reluctant to have a second child," Lu said.

The latest policy change should result in 3 million to 6 million more babies over the five years starting in 2017, according to a Credit Suisse forecast. It said that would return the birth rate to its 1990s level.

If the birth rate fails to budge, then Beijing might have to ease controls further and allow three children or offer incentives such as longer maternity leave or free education, Lu said.

Despite market-style economic reforms, the Communist Party still plays a bigger role in many spheres of Chinese life than most other governments.

The party still controls all Chinese media and appoints every legislator, Cabinet minister, mayor and police chief and every president of a bank, university, phone company or oil producer.

And since 2008, political controls have become tighter, not looser.

The government of President Xi Jinping has revived the tactic of collective punishment, pressuring human rights and political activists by harassing their children and relatives.

In October, the 16-year-old son of a human rights lawyer was detained in Myanmar and returned to China against his will after he left the country to attend school in the United States. Chinese authorities placed him under house arrest.

To Chinese, end of 1-child policy welcome, not game-changer

BEIJING (AP)—Everyone should have the chance to have more than one child, say Chinese parents who welcome the government's loosening of its population policy. But just because all couples can now have two children, that doesn't mean all want to take advantage.

Many already had that option because the one-child policy had been significantly relaxed in previous years. Some see a second child as too expensive, especially given the current level of government support for child care and medical care. Others say it's already too late, and reflect on the siblings they might have had if the policy had not been in place for the past three decades.

Parents in Beijing and Shanghai spoke to The Associated Press on Friday about the historic change:

LONELY GENERATION

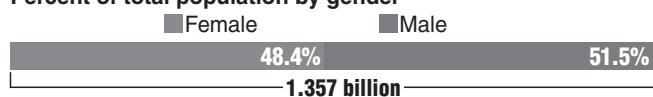
Chinese born in the 1980s and 1990s, when the one-child policy was most strictly enforced, say they were lonely growing up without siblings. That increased perceptions that the policy was unjust, said Shanghai stay-at-home mother Shao Jiao.

"We lack brothers and sisters, accompaniment. That experi-

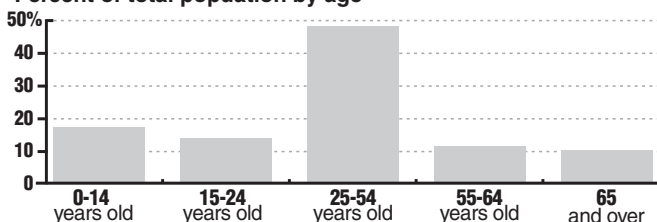
China demographics

China's ruling party announced that the country will start allowing all married couples to have two children

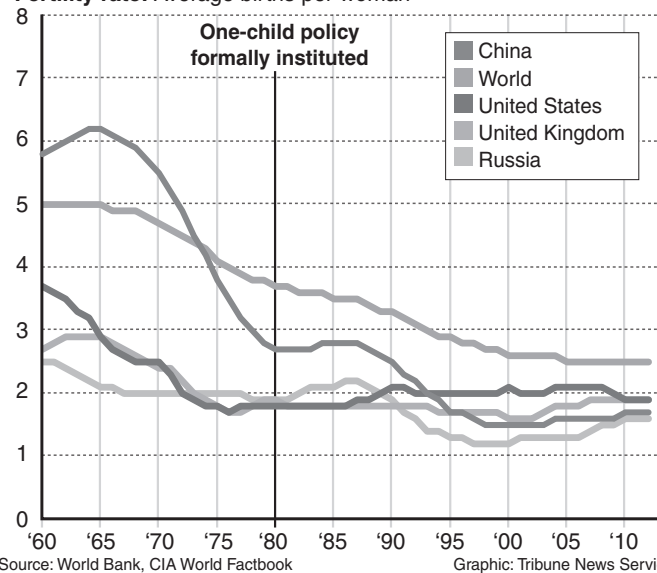
Percent of total population by gender



Percent of total population by age



Fertility rate: Average births per woman



ence and that life, we do not have them," said Shao, 31, the mother of a 7-year-old boy and 6-week-old girl. "I think it is

true that the only-child generation is lonely. So we have to turn to friends more for that. We are the lonely generation," Shao said.

SEEKING HEALTH-CARE HELP

China has changed its one-child policy to a two-child policy to help mitigate an expected shortage of workers that will be needed to support an aging population. But a Beijing resident said the government will need to increase child-care and health-care support to give families incentives to have more kids.

Like many Chinese interviewed by media, the man gave only his surname, He. His 2-year-old needs substantial medical care, but government support varies widely, depending on where families live and their legal residency status. People who live in rural areas, or migrate from the country to big cities to find work, get less help than native urban-dwellers.

"People won't have a second child if the burden is too great, so there really needs to be more state help," He said as he strolled with his child outside Beijing's Capital In-

stitute of Pediatrics.

COUNTING THE COSTS

Wang Huiying, who works for Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, said child care is a major concern when considering whether to have a second child. Wang, 34, employs a nanny to care for her 3-year-old daughter, Pipi, but said many families are forced to put their children in the care of grandparents who might not always be available.

Child care adds to the costs of clothing, food and outside tutoring, while housing costs in major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai are already major burdens.

Wang already had the option of having a second child. A major change to the policy in 2013 allowed people who were only children, including Wang's husband, to have a second child of their own. Still, the official end of the one-child policy has renewed her interest having another. "There are a lot of factors to consider, so we're going to think very hard about this," she said.

PAYING THE PRICE

Chen Xiaoling from Hebei province outside Beijing wasn't eligible for more than one child, but had a second,

anyway. She had to pay a 40,000-yuan (\$6,325) fine, which she and her husband were able to absorb. It helped that the couple are self-employed; had they worked for a state company or office, they could have been fired.

"Having another child isn't really a major issue if you can afford it, so I don't really think the change in rules will have a very big effect," Chan said while taking a walk in eastern Beijing's scenic Ritan Park.

AGING FUTURE

Boxing coach Chen Qiang in Shanghai says he's greatly concerned about the inverted-pyramid family structure the old policy has resulted in: four grandparents, two parents and just one child. The plunging birthrate stands to increase the burden on the working-age population and create a labor shortage, said Chen, 34.

"So nationwide, we will have very few young people decades later," he said. While Chen himself hopes for a daughter to accompany his 6-year-old son, he says Thursday's announcement was not a factor in his planning and questions whether it will motivate many couples to change their thinking. "Those who want two kids already have them," he said.

Overdrive

2016 Honda Civic tops the compact class

By **LARRY PRINTZ**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Everyone has a Honda Civic story.

Since its arrival on U.S. shores in 1973, it has slowly established itself as a cultural touchstone, the car that everyone turns to the way those who came of age during the Age of Aquarius turned to the Volkswagen Beetle. OK, maybe the Civic never became a movie star like the Beetle did, and it never could claim to possess an iconic shape.

Instead, it was a cultural shape-shifter, one that changed with the times. Was it an affordable hatchback? Yes. A stylish economy coupe? Yup. A economical everyday sedan? Uh-huh. It was all of these things and more, even being offered as the sizzling high-performance Si. Better yet, no matter which version you chose, it proved to be light, tossable, economical and fun to drive. It was clearly the compact against which all others were measured.

And then the 2012 model arrived, and something seemed amiss.

It wasn't bad, but it wasn't great either. The plastics seemed cheap, the handling was merely adequate and the styling was a yawner. Honda was off its game. Hey, it happens. Even the best athlete occasionally strikes out once in a while. Honda tried to gussy up what it had produced, but it was like dressing up entrails, and the folks at Honda knew it.

If you had the same idea, and decided to wait for a new Civic to arrive, your patience has been



The 2016 Honda Civic Sedan.

HONDA

rewarded. The 2016 Civic is not only the best iteration of the nameplate ever produced, it easily once again sets the standard for compact sedans.

It's apparent from your first glance of this new sedan, which has a profile not unlike that of the unloved Honda Crosstour. This time, stylists made it work, endowing the car with a sophisticated, energetic vibe. The front wheel arches' character line flows gracefully up front, where it anchors the heavily chromed grille. LED lighting all around lend the car a distinctive nighttime character, while large C-shaped tail lamps give little doubt as to what this car is.

The savvy design acumen

continues inside, where occupants are greeted by more upscale materials and a design language that accented the width of the car. Throughout the cabin, you'll find designers made the right choices, from using one screen for infotainment, rather than two, and developing a truly slick center console bin, with any number of sliding trays and bins to hold key fobs, iPods, beverages, and mobile phones.

But perhaps most importantly, the cabin is significantly larger this year, so much so that it could easily be thought of as a small midsize car rather than a large compact. This is more than mere trickery. Honda increased the Civic's wheelbase

TC NUTS & BOLTS

- Engine: Turbocharged 1.5-liter DOHC four-cylinder
- Horsepower: 174
- Torque: 162 pound-feet
- Wheelbase: 106.3 inches
- Length: 182.3 inches
- Cargo volume: 15.1 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 2,795 pounds
- EPA rating (city/highway): 31/2 mpg
- Base price: \$24,700

1.2 inches; overall length is up 2.9 inches. This results in an extra 3.2 cubic feet of pas-

senger space. This is most apparent in the rear seat, which is hospitable for real adults, and boasts a seating position that sits high enough to accommodate them. Even the trunk is huge, measuring a commodious 15.1 cubic feet.

None of this would matter if the car didn't perform well. The good news? It performs better than you would expect.

Civic LX and EX sedans are powered by a 2.0-liter double-overhead-cam, 16-valve, four-cylinder engine that generates 158 horsepower and 138 pound-feet of torque. The engine is mated to a sporty continuously variable transmission, although LX models can be fitted with a six-speed manual. It's a perfectly fine powerplant that will find its home in most Civics, although the engine to truly consider ones standard in pricier EX-T, EX-L and Touring models. It's an all-new turbocharged 1.5-liter double-overhead-cam, direct-injected four-cylinder engine with variable cam timing that churns out 174 horsepower and 162 pound-feet of torque. It comes exclusively with the CVT.

For some, the lack of a manual is a turnoff, particularly if the box is a CVT. Given Honda's history, you might expect a dual-clutch transmission. Remarkably, the CVT proves to be very well-behaved, metering out the power is strong steady flow, with little of the rubber-band feel and endless drowning of a typical CVT. Credit should go to the presence of a torque converter, which gives the gearbox its traditional feel. This allows the

driver to make the most of this potent little powerplant, which suffers from little turbo lag.

But it's more than power which makes the upper level Civic's so remarkable; it's the ride and handling. While all Civic's benefit from hydraulic front suspension bushings, toner Civics have them in the rear as well. This makes for a ride that does an excellent job of insulating passengers from road shocks. In fact, it's nearly luxury level. This allowed engineers to dial up the sporty handling, and it gives the Civic the sporty, responsive feel drivers have come to expect, but while offering an incredibly comfortable ride at the same time.

And, by opting for a higher trim level, buyers can now get some high end features, including remote engine start, electronic parking brake, dual-zone automatic climate control, heated front and rear seats, and rain-sensing wipers. All models except LX also get the new 7-inch Display Audio screen, which comes with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. If you haven't experienced either yet, once you do, you'll skip the LX.

Finally, for the first time, drivers can get Honda's new suite of driver assistance features, which the automaker calls Honda Sensing.

All of this goodness comes at a price that's sure to endear this car to more drivers than ever before. Prices start at \$18,640, and rise to \$26,500 for Touring models.

Given how good these new models are, you'll wonder why Honda didn't charge more.

Yes, it's that good.

UNDER THE HOOD

Sparkplugs explained

By **BRAD BERGHOLDT**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: Correct me if I'm wrong but I'm thinking that over the years the basic components of sparkplugs have not changed significantly except for the materials used. Now there are plugs made of copper, platinum, double platinum and iridium. The points have also changed. There are regular, v-shaped, double, triple, quadruple tips. What type of sparkplug is supposedly the best in everyday driving? How about hot versus cold sparkplugs?—Archie T.

A: The general design of sparkplugs hasn't changed much, but there have been lots of changes in electrode materials, shapes, and the number of

ground electrodes used in the devices. Traditional sparkplugs typically had a center electrode constructed of nickel chrome alloy and a single ground electrode constructed of nickel steel. Copper was added to the core of the center electrode in the 1970s to help transfer heat from the electrode.

Spark jumps more easily to and from a sharp-edged surface. When the 2.5-millimeter nickel center electrode wears down, it develops rounded edges, raising required firing voltage. Copper cored plugs are still recommended for many engines, particularly turbocharged and natural gas fueled engines.

Long life (typically up to 100,000 miles) sparkplugs came along next, containing a platinum tipped center electrode. Platinum is extremely hard and long lasting, not to

mention expensive. An inherently sharp 1-mm spur of platinum is welded to the nickel center electrode, and in some cases a pad of platinum is also welded to the ground electrode. Engines using a waste spark distributorless ignition system fire half of the sparkplugs in the forward direction and the other half backwards, benefitting from the double platinum design. Iridium-tipped (often called "fine wire" and as slender as 0.4 mm) plugs one-up platinum in spark performance and cost, and offer very long life. There are also plugs with an iridium center electrode and a pad of platinum on the ground electrode.

The ground electrode also affects performance. A U-groove, tapered, or split tip electrode is claimed to encourage a better spark and one may see multiple ground electrodes or a wrap-around strap used to improve durability. Contrary to rumor, only a single spark will jump to the

easiest of the group, which can vary with conditions. Multiple ground electrodes tend to have a quenching effect and aren't the best choice for many engines. Indexed sparkplugs are also used on some engines. This means, when installed, the ground electrodes of all the sparkplugs are aligned so they don't impede spark exposure to the incoming air fuel charge. Because of the random manner cylinder head threads are cut, one cylinder may need an A version of the plug, and others a B, C, or D plug.

Modern engines are fussy about having exactly the right sparkplugs. With so many variations in engine design and their unique requirements I'd stick with the original equipment manufacturer type and brand to play it safe. Heat range is scary. Don't even think about experimenting here. A colder than spec plug may foul more easily, and a hotter plug can burn holes in pistons.

Q. The dashboard light on my 1998 BMW 528i indicated I had a light out on the right rear and discovered it was a license plate light. I replaced the bulb in the module, it lit but the dashboard 'light out' indicator remains. What can I do to resolve this issue?—Jim Pfohl

A. Your BMW's exterior lights are controlled by a light control module, which also checks each lamp circuit cold (when not in use) and hot (in use) for expected performance. The module is fussy about the correct bulbs being used. Substitutes can be similar, but not close enough, causing a false alert for a failed lamp.

I'm thinking you may have the base model instrument cluster, which isn't very specific about which lamp might be at fault. In many cases the high mount brake lamp bulb melts its connector, causing poor or no operation, or the bulb simply

burns out, and the instrument cluster display illustrates the fault as an R-side lamp error. The high mount brake lamp is fairly easy to access from inside the trunk, and a replacement socket, if needed, can be readily purchased for about \$15. It plugs right into the wiring!

If the high mount light is OK, be sure to check all rear lamps, comparing side to side, for identical brightness. A bulb that isn't as bright, possibly due to a substitute bulb or poor socket or circuit connection, could trigger the warning display. Seasoned BMW owners prefer the silver based bulbs over the brass colored ones for best performance and fewer false alarms.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

R&B star Akon to debut new albums on his own 'Stadium' app

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Akon, an R&B star who's collaborated with everyone from Eminem to Andy Samberg, is about to release his first albums in seven years—but you won't find them in stores or on streaming services like Spotify. Instead, he plans to release four albums through a new app, making him the latest artist to experiment with bypassing big record labels and traditional music distribution altogether.

The new app, called Stadium, will let fans stream Akon songs for free, although they'll have to put up with ads. But interacting with the app by clicking the ads or sharing with friends on Facebook will earn users credits they can use to "buy" digital goods such as ringtones, wallpapers and Akon-styled emoji. And, of course, to unlock more songs and unreleased videos.

"It's going to definitely regenerate the music business," Akon said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, calling his app "the answer" to the music industry's problems. "It's going to take someone like me to take the chance on it."

It's not a bad deal for Akon

junkies; it lets them stream otherwise unavailable new music legally from their smartphones. For artists like Akon, this kind of independent digital route offers other major advantages—among them, sidestepping Spotify, Pandora and their ilk. Many musicians resent those services for offering what artists consider a tiny cut of streaming revenue.

That's a big issue in the music industry, where sales of downloaded music are falling while streaming is surging. Services like Pandora and Spotify argue that they give out the majority of their revenue to artists and labels and the amount will only grow as more people stream.

Artists' own apps, however,



In this Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015 photo, Akon poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

can garner them a greater slice of ad revenue, while also scooping up data on which songs fans like most and where they live. Musicians can use them to sell concert tickets, backstage passes and T-shirts and other merchandise.

By appifying himself and going independent, Akon aims to super-serve his 60 million-plus fans on social media. He said that roughly 200,000 people have already registered to receive the Stadium app when it's released in the next couple of weeks.

Other artists have gone down a similar road. Radiohead released "In Rainbows" as a pay-what-you-want album download in 2007. Lady Gaga debuted songs from "Born This Way" on a special version of the video game "FarmVille" in 2011, and last year U2 released "Songs of Innocence" as a free album to iTunes users, sponsored by Apple. Some acts—like Macklemore, Nine Inch Nails and The White Stripes—have foregone traditional record-label deals and thrived.

But none of these efforts have yet yielded a broadly viable way of getting music into the hands of fans while paying artists what they think they deserve.

Streaming music, meanwhile, is exploding. It's on pace to double this year, according to Nielsen Music data, gains that would propel U.S. "album" sales

upward for the first time in four years. (Nielsen counts 1,500 song streams as equivalent to an album sale.) Streaming is "a huge piece of the business," said David Bakula, senior vice president of analytics at Nielsen.

Akon's first four albums for the Stadium app will each hew to a different genre: world, house, urban and reggae. The last album, in the pop genre, will be released sometime before March next year, likely in standard formats on multiple digital and physical channels through Warner Music Group's Atlantic Records, Akon said.

Warner said it was too early to comment on its plans.

Vickie Nauman, a Los Angeles-based digital music consultant, says more artists should experiment with offerings like Stadium. Major streaming platforms, she says, are often incredibly cluttered, given that they can offer 30 million or more tracks. She argues that streaming is also too expensive, since the \$10-per-month on-demand plans like Spotify and Apple Music are roughly double what consumers have traditionally paid for music.

"Until we meet consumers where they are, at a price point they're willing to pay, and a user experience that has value, we won't have mass adoption of streaming," Nauman said.

Former Sen. Fred Thompson, had TV and film roles, dead at 73

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson, a folksy Tennessee lawyer whose career led him from politics to Hollywood and back again, died Sunday. He was 73.

At 6-foot-6 (1.98-meters) with a booming voice, Thompson appeared in at least 20 motion pictures and in the TV series "Law & Order." His film credits include "In the Line of Fire," "The Hunt for Red October," "Die Hard II" and "Cape Fear." By the early '90s, Thompson said he had become bored with his 10-year stint in Hollywood and wanted to enter public service. He then headed

back to Nashville and launched his Senate campaign.

A man of varied roles on and off the screen, he was a lawyer by training and once served as a committee counsel during the Senate Watergate hearings.

The family statement said Thompson died in Nashville following a recurrence of lymphoma.

"It is with a heavy heart and a deep sense of grief that we share the passing of our brother, father and grandfather who died peacefully in Nashville," it said. "Fred



Thompson

was the same man on the floor of the Senate, the movie studio, or the town square of ... his home."

Thompson alternated between politics and acting much of his adult life. Once regarded as a rising star in the Senate, he retired from that seat when his term expired in January 2003. "I simply do not have the heart for another six-year term," Thompson said in a statement then. "Serving in the Senate has been a tremendous honor, but I feel that I have other priorities that I need to

attend to."

After his Senate service, Thompson returned to show business and—billed as Fred Dalton Thompson—joined the cast of the veteran NBC drama series "Law & Order." In the supporting role of District Attorney Arthur Branch, Thompson was seen weekly alongside stars including Sam Waterston and Alana de la Garza, as well as occasionally on spinoffs "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and "Law & Order: Criminal Intent."

Yet again he returned to politics in 2007 by announcing he would seek the Republican presidential nomination.

Q&A: Drew Barrymore talks her new book, having a family



NEW YORK (AP)—The last time Drew Barrymore released a book about her life, it was 1991's "Little Girl Lost," about her troubled childhood.

Her new book is titled "Wildflower," and it reflects the positive changes in her life.

The 40-year-old actress is now married to art consultant Will Kopelman and the mother of two young daughters. She has a beauty line called Flower and runs a production company called Flower Films.

Her new film, "Miss You Already," with Toni Collette opens Nov. 6.

Barrymore says it isn't easy juggling various career demands with being a mother.

"I just don't know any mom who's like, 'Yep, I feel like I've figured it out, I've got this great

system and it makes me feel guilt-free,'" she said. "I think it feels really difficult a lot of the time."

Barrymore added: "I think it's positive for my kids to see me working and loving what I do. I want to teach them responsibility and work ethic. I want them to be the kind of kids like, 'Yeah, mom worked.' Not 'work made mom not be around.'"

Barrymore talked about "Wildflower," having a family and the Hollywood pay gap in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

Associated Press: This book is about your life but it's not really a memoir. Can you talk about that?

Barrymore: It's stories; it's not a memoir. It's thinking about things and times in my life that were meaningful and special. I always wanted to write, and I was never brave enough and I never had the time, which

with two kids it's ironic—that gave me the time, but I pushed so many other things aside in my life to be present with my kids that it made me have these windows to write. You get to a certain moment in your life when it's different and you get reflective and I thought, 'Let's try this.'

AP: You write about your family in the book. It must be a great feeling to know that your daughters have a strong family unit.

Barrymore: Will is a good father and he is a good person. Their grandparents are great people. My sister-in-law and her kids are an amazing tribe and unit. There's a whole world set up there that I really respect and admire. They also will have family with each other because they are sisters. I always idealized sibling relationships. Just to have someone in life you can

look to and have this amazing connection to whether you're close or not is extraordinary. They have me, who is not going anywhere—ever. I am unbreakably in love with them and will be every single day for the rest of my life, no matter how nuts they drive me.

AP: You're a boss at your production company and also an actress. What do you say about the Hollywood pay gap?

Barrymore: Obviously, it should be equal and that's that. I don't think there's much more to say on it. It's just a matter of fact. However, I feel so grateful for the opportunities I got along the way because being a young twenty-something and asking to be given the opportunity to do films and work in this business and be trusted ... however much I always want to support everyone, I also want to always remain very, very grateful.

Fans give Lego bricks to Ai Weiwei after firm declines order

LONDON (AP)—Ai Weiwei is taking on Lego, brick by brick.

Art galleries around the world are collecting plastic pieces for the dissident Chinese artist after the Danish toy company refused to supply its product for his latest project.

Ai, whose work is often critical of Chinese authorities, says Lego last month refused a bulk purchase order from an Australian gallery where he plans to build a new artwork on the theme of freedom of speech.

Ai called the move "an act of censorship and discrimination," but Lego says it can't endorse the use of its bricks in projects with a "political agenda."

London's Royal Academy, which is currently mounting an exhibition of Ai's work, is encouraging supporters to fill a BMW in its courtyard with Lego bricks that will be shipped to Ai.

Other galleries have also taken up collections, including the Brooklyn Museum in New York, Berlin's Martin-Gropius-Bau and Australia's National Gallery of Victoria, where an exhibition of Ai's new work is due to open in December.

Lego reported sales of 14.1 billion Danish kroner (\$2.1 billion) in the first half of 2015, which makes the privately owned company the world's biggest toy-maker, surpassing Barbie

manufacturer Mattel Inc. China is one of Lego's biggest growth markets, but the company said Ai's case was the product of long-standing policy, not politics.

Lego said it had a decades-old policy of not "actively engaging in or endorsing the use of Lego bricks in projects or contexts of a political agenda."

"This means that in cases where we receive requests for donations or support for projects from artists, we kindly decline in the cases where we are made aware there is a political context," the company said in a statement.

Lego said that rule applied to requests for donations—which it generally refuses unless the recipients are children—or bulk purchases. But it said "anyone can purchase Lego bricks in toy stores or in other ways and use them for any purpose they desire."

Lego is eager to avoid artistic controversies like the 1996 incident in which provocative Polish artist Zbigniew Libera created a concentration camp toy set with Lego blocks. Since then, his death-camp toys have been shown in museums and galleries around the world.

Lego said then that it had given some of its building blocks to Libera when he asked for a donation, but would have refused had it known what he planned to make with them.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**Bieber quits concert because fans won't listen to him**

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Canadian pop star Justin Bieber says he stopped a concert in Oslo after one song because fans got in his way as he tried to wipe up liquid on stage. On Instagram, he wrote that he “chose to end the show as the people in the front row would not listen.” Videos posted on social media show a visibly irritated Bieber saying “Gimme me a second. Guys, I am done. I am not gonna do the show.” The 21-year-old singer removed his cap and headset as he walked off the stage at Oslo’s Chateau Neuf concert hall before some 1,000 screaming fans. Bieber, who earlier this week quit a radio show in Spain, blamed a rough week, saying “I don’t always handle things the right way but I’m human.”

NBC locks up Adele for 4 performances

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC is booking Adele, pretty much everywhere they can get her. The network said Friday that the singer will tape a concert at New York’s Radio City Music Hall in November, to be shown in a one-hour prime-time special on Dec. 14. The Grammy Award-winner just released her new song “Hello” with a full album upcoming. Adele will also perform on “Saturday Night Live” on Nov. 21, the “Tonight” show on Nov. 23 and the “Today” show on Nov. 25. She won’t have far to travel—all three shows originate from Manhattan’s Rockefeller Center, right next to Radio City. The video for “Hello” has already been viewed nearly 150 million times.

Tony Soprano’s white Cadillac will be auctioned off

BOSTON (AP)—Bada boom, bada bing: This car’s got bling. The white Cadillac that actor James Gandolfini drove

in HBO’s “The Sopranos” is being auctioned off. Boston-based RR Auction says the 2003 Cadillac Escalade ESV was featured on-screen during the final three seasons of the show, which starred the late Gandolfini as fictional mobster Tony Soprano. Gandolfini died in 2013. RR Auction executive vice president Robert Livingston said Friday the car’s interior bears two autographs from Gandolfini—one on the inside of the driver’s side sun visor and another on a panel above the glove box. It goes up for auction starting Nov. 12.

Netflix picks up series produced by Selena Gomez

NEW YORK (AP)—Netflix has ordered a series based on the young adult novel “13 Reasons Why” with Selena Gomez attached as the executive producer. The streaming service said it has picked up the series for 13 episodes. Brian Yorkey is the creator and writer of the story, which centers around a high school student who committed suicide and left behind cassette tapes for people explaining how they played a role in the decision. There’s no word on whether Gomez, the former Disney Channel star who has been working in film and music lately, will appear on the series.

Kardashians keep it up with new ‘Keeping Up’ season Nov. 15

NEW YORK (AP)—The Kardashian clan is keeping it going with a new season of “Keeping Up with the Kardashians.” E! network says the reality series will let loose with season 11 on Nov. 15 at 9 p.m. EST. To get viewers ready, the first of three specials, “Keeping Up: The Kardashians Rewind” airs this Sunday at 8:30 p.m. EST for a recap of Kourtney and Scott’s relationship, Caitlyn Jenner’s parenting style, and Kendall and Kylie’s transition from pre-teens to businesswomen. A pair of other specials will air Dec. 1

and Dec. 8, E! said Friday.

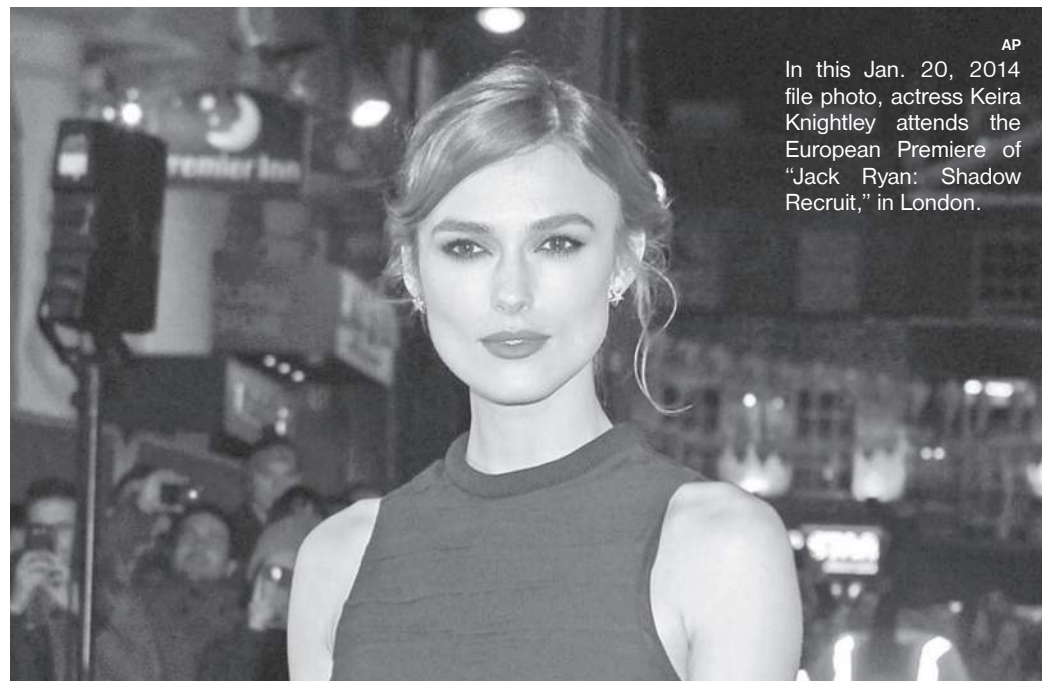
First lady, Conan O’Brien to visit US troops in Qatar

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michelle Obama is bringing a little bit of Hollywood on her trip to Qatar next week. The first lady is being accompanied by late-night comic and talk-show host Conan O’Brien, who will entertain U.S. troops during a visit to the al-Udeid air base near the capital of Doha. The vast air base operates as an overseas headquarters for U.S. Central Command, and hosts American bombers and support aircraft used in the air campaign against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. The base is home to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing of the U.S. Air Force and has more than 11,000 service members stationed there. Mrs. Obama is visiting Qatar and Jordan next week, primarily to promote her girls’ global education initiative.

Blood sculpture draws attention to FDA ban on gay, bi donors

NEW YORK (AP)—An art installation opening in New York City draws attention to a federal ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men. “Blood Mirror” by Jordan Eagles uses blood donated by nine gay and bisexual men. It’s encased in resin. It’ll be shown at Trinity Church on Wall Street from Monday through Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. Eagles says he wanted to create the 7-foot-tall interactive sculpture to show the blood could have been used to save lives. The Food and Drug Administration instituted a lifetime ban on blood donations from gay men in 1983 in response to the AIDS crisis. This year, it proposed an updated policy allowing donations from gay men if they remained celibate for a year. “Blood Mirror” was previously on view at the American University Museum in Washington, D.C.

Keira Knightley: Motherhood puts everything in perspective



AP
In this Jan. 20, 2014 file photo, actress Keira Knightley attends the European Premiere of “Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit,” in London.

NEW YORK (AP)—Keira Knightley feels having a child has changed the way she approaches her career—for the better.

That’s one of the reasons the actress felt comfortable making her Broadway debut in the title role of “Therese Raquin.”

“I think motherhood puts everything into perspective, I really do,” Knightley said at the play’s Broadway opening on Thursday.

Knightley and her husband became the parents of a little girl named Edie earlier this year. So when she returned to work, it was in a play she had passed on

doing on numerous occasions.

“I’ve been offered it a bunch of times and I’ve always gone, ‘Well, this is scary and this is really difficult,’” Knightley said. “I still find it terrifying, but why not give it a go,” Knightley said.

Knightley stars in the title role of Emile Zola’s melodrama as a detached wife who finds passion in the arms of another man, with disastrous consequences. Knightley said the content was “scary and difficult,” at times, and the role “challenging.”

The actress attributes motherhood as a being a catalyst for finding the courage to take

on the play.

“I’m very grateful to become a mother while doing something this unbelievably difficult, because honestly the worst that could happen is that you fail,” Knightley said.

She added: “You try your best and I’ve been really lucky that I have had the opportunity to be working and finding interesting things, and working with interesting people while being a mom at the same time.”

So it’s no longer about success of failure for Knightley. “Ultimately as long as my kid is all right, everything is fine.”

Pakistan cricket legend Imran Khan and wife file for divorce

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan cricket legend-turned-politician Imran Khan and his second wife have decided to part ways and are filing for divorce, the couple said Friday.

Both announced the split on Twitter. In his post, Imran Khan praised his wife, former television anchor Reham Khan.

“I have the greatest respect for Reham’s moral character and her passion to work for and help the underprivileged,” he said. “This is a painful time for

me and Reham and our families. I would request everyone to respect our privacy.”

Local media reported that Imran Khan had agreed to pay a substantial financial settlement to Reham Khan for dissolving the nine-month marriage. He rejected the reports as “absolutely false and shameful.”

Imran Khan had lived alone for 11 years following his divorce from his first wife, Briton Jemima Goldsmith.

Imran Khan and Goldsmith

were married for nine years and split in 2004. He has two sons from that relationship who live with their mother in the UK.

Imran Khan’s party, Pakistan Tahrik-e-Insaf, is the strongest opponent of Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s government. The news of his divorce comes a day before local government elections Pakistan’s most populous province, Punjab, and southern Sindh province. Analysts said it may negatively affect PTI’s chances at the polls.

Turning over new leaf means turning away bigoted friends

DEAR ABBY: My friendships have always included people of different races, religions, nationalities, sexual orientations, professions, etc. A few years ago, I had an experience that was both devastating and humbling on several different levels. It caused me to do a lot of introspection and self-improvement, which led to my becoming a more empathetic person.

Over the last few years, I have distanced myself from old friends and acquaintances who were racist, sexist, homophobic, etc. I have replaced them with new relationships with people who embrace diversity. Some of the people I no longer see ask me why we don’t talk or get together anymore. I don’t want to give them excuses like, “I’ve been too busy.” How do I explain to them that I don’t enjoy associating with people who hold bigoted views?

OPEN-MINDED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR OPEN-MINDED: Because you no longer wish to associate with them, why not just respond with the truth? Say: “As you may know, I had an experience a few years ago that was life-changing. It made me re-evaluate my life and my relationships, so I decided to ‘edit’ them down and spend more

time with people who think the way I do about life.”

DEAR ABBY: I am a middle-aged man who lost my wife to cancer 2 1/2 years ago. We had no children.

I’m now feeling very alone. I don’t seem to fit in anywhere. My old “guy” friends avoid me, and our married “couple” friends leave me out because I am not a couple anymore. I understand that, because they all do “couple” things. But even my family seems to have set me aside. When my wife was alive, we would be invited to my siblings’ homes for dinners during the holidays and other times. Now I often don’t even get a phone call.

There are times I feel like I have been cast off by everyone. Please help, Abby.

LONELY KANSAN

DEAR LONELY KANSAN: I’ll try. With most married couples, the wives are the ones who make the social plans. This may be why you aren’t hearing from your “couple” friends. Why your family would choose to exclude you at a time when you need them is something I can’t explain. But they may tell you if you pick up the phone and talk to them about it.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Because you find you have time on your hands and no prospects, it's time to establish yourself as an eligible single male. Research singles groups in your area. Go online and put your profile on some of the singles sites. Get involved in volunteer activities. Join a dance class, a yoga class, a gym. There are plenty of women out there waiting to be found, but you won't find any of them sitting home waiting for the phone to ring.

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Heat rally from 21 down, rout Rockets, 109-89



MIAMI (AP)—Udonis Haslem didn't play a single second for the Miami Heat on Sunday night.

Instead, he dominated halftime.

Haslem's fiery speech—replete with some profanity from the tri-captain and a couple bottles getting angrily spiked into the red locker room carpeting for emphasis—led to a Miami turnaround, the Heat outscoring Houston by 41 points in the final 23 minutes and rolling past the Houston Rockets 109-89.

"Absolutely awesome," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said about the speech. "That's what leaders do. By the time I got in there, he was already halfway through it and there wasn't much that was needed to be said after that."

Miami was down 65-44 early in the second half. The Heat outscored Houston 65-24 the rest of the way.

"At times, I can be kind of harsh," Haslem said. "But it's harsh reality ... and it just comes out the way it comes out."

Said Heat guard Dwyane Wade: "It was all bleep, bleep, bleep."

Hassan Whiteside had 25 points and 15 rebounds, Wade scored 20 points and Luol Deng scored 14 for Miami—which enjoyed its biggest comeback win since a 27-point rally at Cleveland late in the 2012-13 championship season. Tyler Johnson scored 11, Chris Bosh had all 10 of his in the fourth and Justise Winslow added 10 for the Heat.

Marcus Thornton scored 21 points for Houston, and James Harden had 16 on 2 for 15 shooting—0 for 10 from 3-point range. The Rockets have dropped each of their first three games by exactly 20 points each.

"You can't have a stagnant offense and not get stops," Harden said. "That's a sign of disaster, which happened in the second half."

Dwight Howard sat out to rest on the first night of a back-to-back. He's expected to play when the Rockets host Oklahoma City on Monday night.

"We have not played well all preseason. We have not played well in the first three games," Rockets coach Kevin McHale said. "No one feels sorry for us. We just have got to go out and find our rhythm and keep on playing."

Mavericks 103, Lakers 93

In Los Angeles, Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 points and the Dallas Mavericks held off a late rally by the winless Los Angeles Lakers.

This is the first time in franchise history the Lakers have started 0-3 in consecutive seasons. They lost their first five games last season and ended up with their worst record ever (21-61).



AP
Miami Heat center Hassan Whiteside (21) dunks against the Houston Rockets in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015, in Miami.

The Mavericks opened the game with a 15-0 blitz that included two 3-pointers each by Wesley Matthews and Nowitzki—the latter has made more 3-point shots than any 7-footer in league history (1,580). The Lakers missed their first five shots before Julius Randle's dunk with 7:13 left in the first quarter.

Randle posted his second consecutive double-double with 22 points and 15 rebounds.

Kobe Bryant had 15 points on 3-of-15 shooting.

Thunder 117, Nuggets 93

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 25 points to help Oklahoma City beat Denver.

Durant made 8 of 11 field goals and all six of his free throws to help new coach Billy Donovan remain unbeaten in the NBA.

Serge Ibaka had 18 points, seven rebounds and five blocks and Russell Westbrook had 15 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the Thunder, who have won their first three games for the first time since the 2011-12 season.

The Thunder shot 52 percent from the field, and all five Oklahoma City starters rested for the entire fourth quarter.

Danilo Gallinari and Will Barton each scored 15 points and Jameer Nelson added 13 points and seven assists for the Nuggets, who shot just 38 percent.

Bulls 92, Magic 87

In Chicago, Pau Gasol and Nikola Mirotic each scored 16 points and Chicago withstood a late surge from Orlando.

Chicago led by 14 at halftime and 12 after three quarters, and the Bulls appeared to be headed for an easy win. But Orlando cut the lead to two with just under 3 minutes left before Chicago's Jimmy Butler jumped to intercept a

pass and squelch the comeback bid.

Then, under the Bulls' basket after a Magic rebound, Butler came up with another takeaway to again foil Orlando.

It was the third win in four games for Chicago. The Magic dropped to 0-3.

Derrick Rose is still playing with a face mask as he recovers from a broken orbital bone suffered before the start of the season. He was held scoreless in the second and third quarters and finished with just six points.

Hawks 94, Hornets 92

In Charlotte, N.C., Kent Bazemore scored 20 points, Al Horford added 16 points and 12

rebounds and Atlanta held on to beat Charlotte for the second time in three days.

The Hornets had a chance to tie the game at the buzzer, but Kemba Walker's 17-footer from the left wing hit the back rim and bounced out. Walker also missed a 3-pointer in the final seconds of Charlotte's 97-94 loss to Atlanta on Friday night.

Jeff Teague had 18 points and Paul Millsap added 16 points, including a key 3-pointer to give Atlanta the lead for good with less than a minute to play.

Walker finished with 17 points and Nicolas Batum added 16 points and eight assists for

winless Charlotte. Al Jefferson contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets.

Spurs 95, Celtics 87

In Boston, LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 14 rebounds, Kawhi Leonard added 19 points and San Antonio beat Boston.

Manu Ginobili scored 13 points and Boris Diaw had 10 for the Spurs.

Avery Bradley led Boston with 18 points and Marcus Smart had 17. Isaiah Thomas scored 15, but shot only 4 of 18 from the floor. Jared Sullinger had 10 points and eight rebounds.

San Antonio opened a double-digit lead early in the game

Remembering Flip Saunders: Giver of gifts, eternal optimist

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—For those he knew well, and many he didn't, Flip Saunders had a knack coming up with a little gift, a trinket, something simple he would pass along during a quiet moment to make a person feel special.

As Minnesota's president of basketball operations, Saunders woke up the morning of the 2014 draft and had a premonition that he would select UCLA guard Zach LaVine with the 13th overall pick. He wrote LaVine's name down on a piece of paper that morning. When Saunders' vision came true, he pulled it out of his pocket and gave it to LaVine as his show of faith in their new union.

"I have it in my room still," LaVine said.

More than a decade ago, when Saunders was crisscrossing Minnesota with Sam Mitchell as part of the Timberwolves' annual offseason promotional caravan, he gave Mitchell, a player on the team back then, a coloring book for his young children that showed them how to do elementary magic tricks and gave them something to do

on the long rides.

"Until this day," said Mitchell, who took over as coach of the Timberwolves when Saunders fell ill, "I still have that book."

Before he took over as head coach in his second stint with the Timberwolves, Saunders the executive hosted some fans in his suite for a game, including attorney Steven Terry, a fixture courtside at Target Center. After a night of talking basketball, Saunders gave him a Timberwolves coin and told him that he would buy Terry a drink every time they ran into each other and he presented the coin.

"I wasn't close to him in reality," Terry said. "It just felt like it. That's a good person."

And the coin?

"I keep it next to my desk at home," Terry said.

Saunders, who died on Sunday at age 60 after complications from Hodgkin's lymphoma, will be laid to rest at a private ceremony in the Twin Cities this weekend. The Timberwolves will say goodbye to their president, their coach, their minority owner, whose

boundless optimism and prescient maneuvering was reviving interest in a dormant franchise.

The Twin Cities will say goodbye to one of their fiercest advocates, a Cleveland native who called this place home even when he didn't have to.

The basketball world will say goodbye to a true ambassador, one who would buoy the spirits of recently fired coaches by inviting them to visit and collaborate, show up unannounced at a player's camp and entertain the kids with magic tricks and spring for Girl Scout cookies for a few star-struck fans as they exited the arena after a game.

And his family will say goodbye to the patriarch who gathered everyone together at their cabin every Fourth of July for a spirited game of whiffle ball, followed his three daughters around the country for dance competitions and proudly watched his son work his way up the NBA coaching ranks.

Saunders gave long-suffering Timberwolves faithful a far bigger gift: hope.

He turned disgruntled star Kevin Love into rookie of the year Andrew Wiggins. He worked tirelessly with the business side to promote a team that has not made the playoffs since 2004. He convinced Kevin Garnett to come back home. And he did it all with ebullience.

"Whether it's the players we have or the new \$26 million facility and really the energy we're having in town, there's no team that's won 16 games that has as much energy as we do," Saunders said this summer.

He really believed that basketball could be great again in Minnesota, and that he was the one who could make it so. And not just in the NBA.

Before he returned to the Timberwolves in 2013, he thought he was going to be the next coach at his alma mater, the University of Minnesota. As he geared up for the possibility, he scouted the recruiting class, in particular a strong crop of Minnesota-born prep stars that included Tyus Jones, Reid Travis and J.P. Macura.

Manning, Broncos throttle Rodgers, Packers, 29-10



DENVER (AP)— In only the fourth meeting of teams 6-0 or better, Peyton Manning tied

Brett Favre's NFL record with his 186th regular-season win and Denver rattled Aaron Rodgers into one of the worst games of his career in the Broncos' 29-10 victory over the Green Bay Packers on Sunday night.

Wearing the blue jerseys they did in beating the Packers for their first Super Bowl win in 1997, the Broncos piled it on in the fourth quarter, when DeMarcus Ware sacked Rodgers and the ball ended up in the end zone for a safety.

The Broncos improved to 7-0 for the first time since 1998, when they won the Super Bowl after finishing 14-2.

Rodgers was 14 of 22 for just 77 yards for the Packers (6-1)—the lowest of his career in a game where he wasn't knocked out by injury.

Although neither quarterback threw for a touchdown, Manning was 21 of 29 for 340 yards. The Packers had only 140 yards of total offense to Denver's 500.

Saints 52, Giants 49

In New Orleans, Drew Brees passed for career highs of 511 yards and seven touchdowns, and recently signed Kai Forbath kicked a 50-yard field goal as time ran out, giving New Orleans the victory in a game with a record 13 scoring passes.

Eli Manning connected on a career-high six touchdown passes, three to fellow New Orleans native Odell Beckham Jr., but New York (4-4) fell for the second time in three games.

The 101 points tied for third most in NFL history. The teams combined for 1,030 yards.

Brandin Cooks and Willie Snead each had two touchdown catches for the Saints (4-4), who have won four of five after an 0-3 start. Brees' other three touchdown passes went to Marques Colston, Ben Watson and C.J. Spiller, the last to tie the score at 49 with 36 seconds left.

The Saints' defense then forced a Giants punt with 20 seconds to go. Marcus Murphy returned it across the 50 and fumbled, but Snead recovered. The Giants were flagged for a face mask penalty, setting up the winning kick.

Bengals 16, Steelers 10

In Pittsburgh, Ben Roethlisberger's return wasn't enough to prevent the Bengals from getting off to their best start in franchise history.

Andy Dalton threw a touchdown pass with 2:57 to go, and the Bengals picked off Roethlisberger twice in the fourth quarter.

The Bengals are 7-0 for the first time and have a comfortable lead in their division.

The defending AFC North champion Steelers (4-4) hoped Roethlisberger's return af-

ter missing four games with a sprained knee would kick-start them. After leading most of the game, they fall apart in the closing minutes.

Shawn Williams' diving sideline interception at the Pittsburgh 45-yard line set up Dalton's 9-yard touchdown pass to A.J. Green, who had another big game against the Steelers. He finished with 11 catches for 118 yards.

Reggie Nelson's second interception set up Mike Nugent's 44-yard field goal with 1:47 to go. The Steelers drove to the Cincinnati 16-yard line with 4 seconds left, but Roethlisberger's pass went out of the end zone to finish it.

Seahawks 13, Cowboys 12

In Arlington, Texas, Russell Wilson had a scoring pass for the game's only touchdown and directed a late drive to the winning field goal, leading the defending NFC champions (4-4) back to .500 after an 0-2 start.

The Cowboys (2-5) lost their fifth straight without Tony Romo in Dez Bryant's return from a five-game absence with a broken right foot.

The Seahawks started the decisive drive at their 15, with Wilson converting three third downs capped by a scramble that helped run the clock before Steven Hauschka's 24-yard field goal with 1:06 remaining.

All of Dallas' points came on Dan Bailey field goals.

Seattle receiver Ricardo Lockette had an injury scare and came away with a concussion and was moving his extremities after a vicious block by Jeff Heath on a punt return. Lockette was carted off the field after a lengthy delay.

Buccaneers 23, Falcons 20

In Atlanta, bouncing back after blowing a 17-point lead, the Bucs got a 31-yard field goal from Connor Barth in the extra period to beat the mistake-prone Falcons.

Matt Ryan tied the game for the Falcons (6-2) on an 8-yard pass to Julio Jones with 17 seconds left in regulation. Having squandered a 24-point edge the previous week at Washington, the Bucs (3-4) were in trouble again.

Instead, Jameis Winston led an impressive drive on the first possession of OT, converting three times on third down before the drive stalled when he short-

hopped a pass into the end zone for an open Adam Humphries. Barth made his third field goal of the game.

Atlanta got the ball but didn't even make it to midfield. On fourth down, Ryan was heavily pressured by Gerald McCoy and Howard Jones, forcing a desperation pass that wasn't close to anyone.

Despite four turnovers, the Falcons rallied from a 20-3 deficit, benefiting from a highly questionable decision by Tampa



AP
Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (18) waves after an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers, Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015, in Denver.

Bay coach Lovie Smith to go on fourth-and-1 at the Bucs 40 with 2 minutes to go.

Cardinals 34, Browns 20

In Cleveland, Carson Palmer threw for four touchdowns, three in the second half, and for 374 yards as Arizona rallied.

Palmer had two TD passes in the third quarter when the Cardinals (6-2) overcame a 20-10 halftime deficit. His third TD of the second half, a 6-yarder to Larry Fitzgerald, gave Arizona a 31-20 lead.

Michael Floyd had a 60-yard TD catch and tight end Troy Niklas had two short TD receptions as the Cardinals overcame four turnovers and won in Cleveland for the first time since 1985.

The Browns (2-6) dropped their third straight, and cornerback Joe Haden and safety Donte Whitner sustained concussions on consecutive plays in the third quarter; Cleveland lost two defenders and the lead in a span of 7:25.

Quarterback Josh McCown had three TD passes. The 36-year-old also played much of the second half in pain after re-injuring his right shoulder and ribs.

Vikings 23, Bears 20

In Chicago, Adrian Peterson ran for 103 yards and Blair Walsh kicked a 36-yard field goal as time expired.

The Vikings had dropped seven straight at Soldier Field, and it looked like the streak would reach eight when Jay Cutler rolled to his right and plowed over safety Harrison Smith for a 4-yard touchdown with just under five minutes remaining. But two late scores lifted Minnesota (5-2) to its third straight win.

Stefon Diggs turned a short

pass into a 40-yard TD when he spun around Sherrick McManis and went up the left side, tying it with 1:49 left.

After Chicago (2-5) punted, Teddy Bridgewater hit a leaping Charles Johnson for a 35-yard pass that put the ball on the 27. Two plays later Walsh booted the winner, pumping his right arm as the ball went through the uprights.

The Bears (2-5) lost star running back Matt Forte and receiver Eddie Royal to knee injuries while dropping their second straight game.

Ravens 29, Chargers 26

In Baltimore, Justin Tucker kicked a 39-yard field goal on the final play. Joe Flacco threw for 319 yards and ran for a score to help Baltimore (2-6) snap a three-game skid and hand the Chargers (2-6) their fourth straight defeat.

The Ravens' six losses this season have come by a combined 30 points, and their only win before Sunday came in overtime.

Tucker's fifth field goal came three plays after a third-down pass interference call against Steve Williams moved the ball 21 yards to the San Diego 22.

The victory came at a price: Receiver Steve Smith tore his right Achilles tendon in the third quarter and is lost for the season. After being tackled at the end of an 18-yard gain, the 36-year-old Smith had to be helped off the field and could not put any weight on his right leg.

Now in his 15th NFL season, Smith has said he will retire after this year. He had five catches for 82 yards before the injury.

San Diego's Philip Rivers threw three touchdown passes and went 28 for 37 for 301 yards, his franchise-record fifth

consecutive 300-yard game. Two of his touchdown passes went to Malcolm Floyd, including a 70-yarder.

Rams 27, 49ers 6

In St. Louis, Todd Gurley rushed for 133 yards on 20 carries, topping 100 yards for the fourth straight start to open his career, and the Rams had three sacks and a safety.

Gurley, who had a 71-yard touchdown run, is the first rookie to open his career with four consecutive 100-yard games, according to STATS, with data available since 1991.

Tavon Austin caught a 66-yard touchdown pass and ran for a 2-yard score, compensating for an early lost fumble.

The Rams (4-3) are 3-0 against the NFC West for the first time since 2004, and they're above .500 this late in the season for the first time since 2006. The St. Louis defense hasn't allowed a touchdown the last two games, permitting just four field goals.

The 49ers (2-6) were hit hard by injuries, losing Reggie Bush early, and haven't scored a touchdown in two games. They've lost six of seven, are 0-3 in the division and have lost two straight to St. Louis for the first time since 2004.

Raiders 34, Jets 20

In Oakland, Calif., Derek Carr threw for 333 yards and four touchdowns to help Oakland pick apart the Jets' vaunted defense.

Latavius Murray ran for 113 yards, Andre Holmes caught two touchdown passes and Charles Woodson intercepted his league-leading fifth pass of the season to give the Raiders (4-3) their first winning record this late in the season since 2011.

Michael Crabtree had 102 yards receiving and another touchdown, and Taiwan Jones got his first career score on a tackle-breaking 59-yard catch-and-run that exposed a New York defense that had been out-standing the first six games.

Ryan Fitzpatrick left with a left hand injury on the opening drive for the Jets (4-3), who have lost two straight games.

Texans 20, Titans 6

In Houston, Brian Hoyer threw for 235 yards and two touchdowns, and Houston tied a franchise record with seven sacks.

A 21-yard touchdown reception by DeAndre Hopkins put Houston on top in the second quarter and the Texans (3-5) didn't trail after that. Nate Washington's 42-yard TD catch extended the lead.

Zach Mettenberger threw for 171 yards with an interception in his second straight start in place of rookie Marcus Mariota, who is out with a knee injury. Mettenberger was hurried and harassed all day to remain winless in eight career starts, with three losses against the Texans.

The Titans (1-6) had three turnovers in their sixth straight loss since a win over Tampa Bay in the opener.

Whitney Mercilus had a career-high 3 1/2 sacks and J.J. Watt added 2 1/2, including one where he caused a fumble that the Texans recovered early in the fourth quarter.

Chiefs 45, Lions 10

In London, Alex Smith threw for 145 yards and two touchdowns, and ran for 78 yards and another TD to lead Kansas City over Detroit Lions at Wembley Stadium.

Smith scrambled his way through the Detroit defense for some big plays, including a career-high 49-yard run in the second quarter that set up his 12-yard touchdown run.

The Chiefs (3-5) were at Wembley for the first time, while the Lions (1-7) played in London for the second straight season.

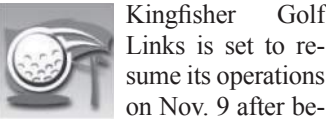
De'Anthony Thomas, Charcandrick West and Spencer Ware also rushed for touchdowns for the Chiefs. Thomas ended up with 100 total yards, while West ran for 97. Travis Kelce and Jeremy Maclin caught TD passes in the second half.

The Lions were playing for the first time since offensive coordinator Jim Bob Cooter took over for the fired Joe Lombardi. And although the offense got moving on the opening possession, it stalled horribly after that.

Matthew Stafford threw for 217 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. Also, Calvin Johnson had 85 receiving yards, while Joique Bell ran for 56. But after the Lions took a 3-0 lead on 35-yard field goal from Matt Prater, Detroit was hapless with the ball.

Kingfisher Golf Links to reopen Nov. 9

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



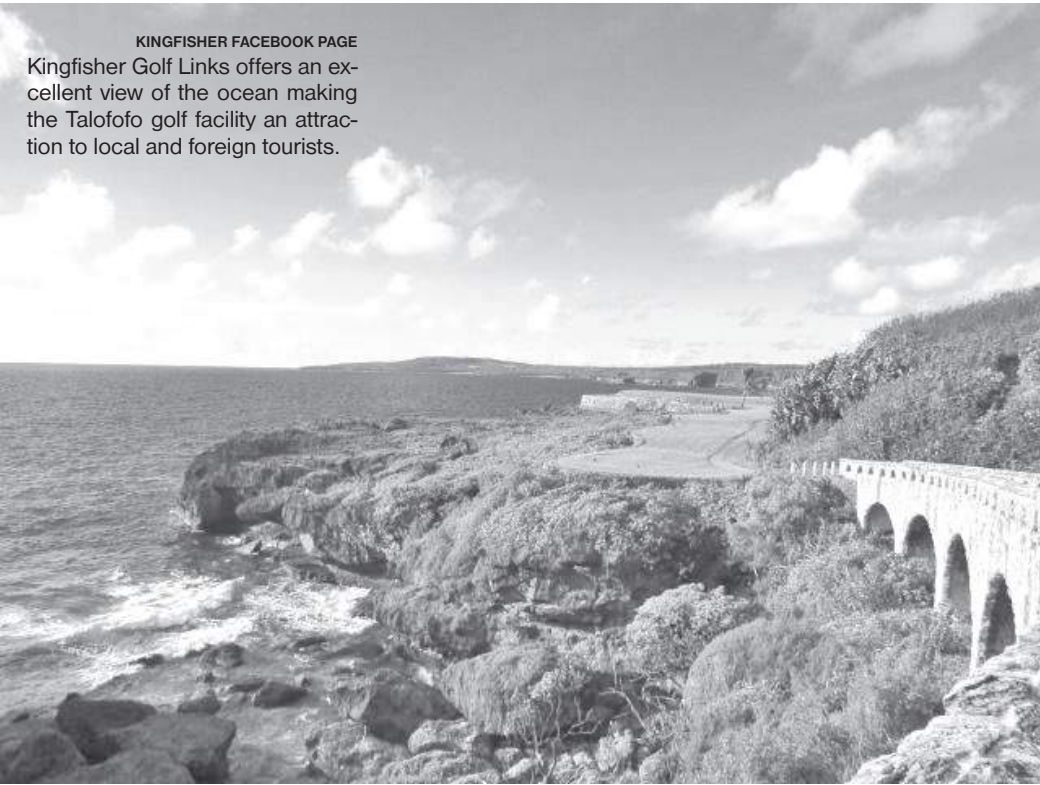
Kingfisher Golf Links is set to resume its operations on Nov. 9 after being closed for more than three months after Saipan was hit by several typhoons.

Typhoons Soudelor and Champi passed by Saipan in August and October, while the CNMI also felt the effects of Goni, Atsani, and Koppu.

However, it was Soudelor that caused severe damage on Saipan as the Category 4 typhoon toppled power lines, blew houses, and caused widespread destruction that is estimated at over \$10 million.

Kingfisher Golf Links—an 18-hole, par-72, and 7,000-yard golf facility—is one of the four golf courses on Saipan that sustained damage when Soudelor pummeled the island on Aug. 2.

Kingfisher’s management and staff, on a post on their website and Facebook page, said they are almost complete



KINGFISHER FACEBOOK PAGE
Kingfisher Golf Links offers an excellent view of the ocean making the Talofofo golf facility an attraction to local and foreign tourists.

in bringing back the golf facility to 100 percent.

“And now that Saipan is continuously recovering and 90 percent of power supply back, Kingfisher Golf Links has been

cleaning and clearing [debris]. Its rehabilitation process is almost complete [and] it will open its doors again for business.”

Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, and

Mariana Country Club are the other golf facilities on Saipan that is frequented by local and foreign tourists alike.

There were also unconfirmed reports that Kingfisher

Golf Links was the hardest hit among the four golf courses on Saipan with its driving range, restaurant, clubhouse, and pro shop sustaining damage.

Having no power and water, plus the fallen trees and other debris that littered the golf course, were the reasons why Kingfisher was closed for almost 100 days.

Power and water at the Talofofo golf facility was only restored last week with its management and staff busy cleaning and clearing the debris on the course and repairing the damages. Kingfisher’s management and staff, in the same post, thanked all of its loyal patrons for bearing with them.

“The management and staff of Kingfisher Golf Links wishes to thank you for your patience and understanding during the tough times that we been through, and most of all for your continuous support.”

Coral Ocean, Laolao Bay, and MCC opened after a month of clearing the debris at their respective 18-hole golf courses.

Coral Ocean’s hotel guests also lent their hand in helping the management and its staff in clearing the debris while Laolao Bay’s grounds crew replanted more than 80 percent of the trees that were uprooted by Soudelor. MCC gradually opened its 18-hole golf course.

ROYALS

From Page 28

keep the line moving.

“I couldn’t have written a better script,” manager Ned Yost said.

That’s how Series MVP Salvador Perez and the Royals became the first team since the 2002 Angels to come from behind in all four World Series wins, according to STATS.

That’s how they washed away the bitter taste of last year’s Game 7 loss at home to San Francisco, an October heart-

break that drove the Royals to their singular focus all season.

Never waver. Win it all this time.

“Kansas City is No. 1. Who cares about what happened last year?” Perez said.

Now, this group of homegrown favorites who turned around a floundering franchise, Mike Moustakas and Alex Gordon and Hosmer to name a few, take their place in Royals history alongside George Brett, Willie Wilson, Bret Saberhagen and those champs from 30 years ago.

They couldn’t have done it

without major contributions from newcomers like Ben Zobrist, Johnny Cueto, Kendrys Morales, Chris Young and Alex Rios.

Next up, a parade to celebrate the club’s second title on Tuesday in Kansas City.

With no margin for error, Harvey put the Mets’ last hope in his hands and hung on as long as he could. After eight scoreless innings, he pushed to pitch the ninth and finally faltered.

“Obviously, I let my heart get in the way of my gut. I love my players. And I trust them,” manager Terry Collins said. “It

didn’t work. It was my fault.”

New York slugger Yoenis Cespedes exited with knee pain but Curtis Granderson hit a leadoff homer, his third long ball of the Series, and the Mets managed a 2-0 lead against heavy-hearted Royals starter Edinson Volquez, pitching one day after returning from his father’s funeral.

But for these resilient Royals, no deficit is too large, no time in the game too late.

“We never quit. We never put our heads down,” Perez said. “We always compete to

the last out.”

Perez looped a leadoff single in the 12th off losing pitcher Addison Reed, and pinch-runner Jarrod Dyson stole second. One out later, Colon stepped in as a pinch-hitter for his first plate appearance since the regular-season finale Oct. 4.

Hardly rusty, he lined a 1-2 pitch into left-center and pounded his chest at first base.

“He’s a winner,” Yost said.

Alcides Escobar added an RBI double, and Cain’s bases-loaded double off 42-year-old Bartolo Colon broke it open.

HARVEY

From Page 28

Familia blew his third save chance. The NL East champions’ bats were silent as their surprising late-season run to their first postseason since 2006 was quashed by the crisper Royals.

“This hurt, There’s no doubt about it,” David Wright said. “But when we look on this season, when we get a chance a few days from now, a few weeks from now, to sit down and reflect on what we did to get here,

I think it’s going to bring a smile to everybody’s face.”

With fans chanting his name even before he took the mound for the first pitch, the 26-year-old Harvey looked as if he was determined to set aside all the controversy that seemed to follow him this season, his first after Tommy John surgery in late 2013.

No more September talk about innings limits that rankled the Mets’ front office and fans, his social life or Instagram account.

Harvey was determined to carry his teammates back to Kansas

City for Game 6 after failing to hold a two-run lead in the sixth inning of the Series opener.

“I wanted it bad,” Harvey said.

He gave up just four singles in the first eight innings and used all four of his pitches to strike out the Royals’ stingy lineup nine times, including three in both the fourth and fifth.

After striking out Mike Moustakas with a 98 mph fastball to end the fourth, he pumped a fist and gave a couple of euphoric shouts as he

stomped off the mound.

Following Alex Rios’ groundout to end the seventh, Harvey threw his hands in the air and implored his teammates, “Let’s Go!”

He stalked off the mound with a 2-0 lead at the end of the eighth, having thrown 102 pitches. After talking to pitching coach Dan Warthen, he rushed to Terry Collins and implored his manager to let him finish for just the second complete game of his big league career.

“I said, ‘Matt, you’ve got us ex-

actly where we wanted to get you.’ He said, ‘I want this game in the worst way.’ So obviously I let my heart get in the way of my gut,” Collins said. “It was my fault.”

Said Harvey: “I think there’s a lot of fingers that you can point at, but I wanted the ball, and in that situation I did what I could to go back out there. ... I wanted the ball and obviously he wanted to go to Familia there but the way the game was going, the way I felt, I felt like I wanted to take control of the game and go back out there for the ninth.”

MVP

From Page 28

five-game World Series win over the New York Mets that culminated in a 7-2, 12-inning victory early Monday morning.

“Now I don’t feel pain. I don’t feel nothing,” he said.

Last year against San Francisco, Perez hit a foul pop to Pablo Sandoval for the Series’ final out, with the potential tying run at third.

Now that’s long behind him.

“In 2015 Kansas City is No. 1,” he said, the shiny trophy in front of him. “Who cares about

what happened last year?”

This year, his grounder drove in the tying run as Kansas City rallied for two runs in the ninth inning. Then he singled leading off the 12th, setting up pinch-runner Jarrod Dyson to score the go-ahead run on pinch-hitter Christian Colon’s single. Because of that, backup Drew Butera caught the final out, a called third strike Wade Davis threw past Wilmer Flores.

“I think if I had one regret during the whole playoffs, was I had to pinch run for Sal there in that inning,” Royals manager Ned Yost said. “But it opened up the

door for us to score five. I really wish that Sal could have been out there to jump in Wade’s arm when we got that final out.”

Perez set a major league record for most innings caught over a two-year span since 1914 with 2,724, according to STATS, topping the 2,704 for the Chicago Cubs’ Randy Hundley in 1967-68. In addition, Perez has caught 38 spring training innings over the past two years plus 36 innings during the major league All-Stars’ 2014 postseason tour of Japan.

“He’s a horse,” Mets manager Terry Collins said Sunday

afternoon. “Put up the offensive numbers, when you’re catching 150 a year, that’s impressive. I mean, I know he’s a big, strong guy, but that big body gets beat up. He’s had some foul tips already in the first part of this Series that you wonder if he’s coming back out and yet he does. He’s a horse.”

Perez took a foul tip off the mask in Game 4 of the AL Division Series and AL Championship Series, and in Game 4 of the World Series he was staggered by a tip off his collarbone.

“He’s never going to say nothing,” said Yost, a former

catcher. “He’s as tough as they come. You just know that even if you ask him, he’s going to tell you he’s fine, so no sense of asking him.”

Perez does have one habit that stinks. Ever since he had a four-hit game after teammate Alcides Escobar sprayed some Victoria’s Secret perfume on him late in the 2013 season, he’s spritzed himself with a scent every game. Since last year, it’s been 212 Men by Carolina Herrera cologne.

As the Royals celebrated at Citi Field, the overwhelming fragrance was of champagne.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	3	0	1.000	—
New York	2	1	.667	1
Boston	1	2	.333	2
Philadelphia	0	2	.000	2½
Brooklyn	0	3	.000	3

Southeast Division

Atlanta	3	1	.750	—
Washington	2	1	.667	½
Miami	2	1	.667	½
Orlando	0	3	.000	2½
Charlotte	0	3	.000	2½

Central Division

Detroit	3	0	1.000	—
Chicago	3	1	.750	½
Cleveland	2	1	.667	1
Indiana	0	3	.000	3
Milwaukee	0	3	.000	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	2	1	.667	—
Memphis	2	1	.667	—
San Antonio	2	1	.667	—
Houston	0	3	.000	2
New Orleans	0	3	.000	2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	3	0	1.000	—
Minnesota	2	0	1.000	½
Utah	2	1	.667	1
Portland	1	2	.333	2
Denver	1	2	.333	2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	3	0	1.000	—
Golden State	3	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	2	1	.667	1
Sacramento	1	2	.333	2
L.A. Lakers	0	3	.000	3

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	7	0	0	1.000	249	133
N.Y. Jets	4	3	0	.571	172	139
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	176	173
Miami	3	4	0	.429	154	173

South

Indianapolis	3	4	0	.429	147	174
Houston	3	5	0	.375	174	205
Jacksonville	2	5	0	.286	147	207
Tennessee	1	6	0	.143	125	159

North

Cincinnati	7	0	0	1.000	198	132
Pittsburgh	4	4	0	.500	168	147
Cleveland	2	6	0	.250	167	216
Baltimore	2	6	0	.250	190	214

West

Denver	7	0	0	1.000	168	112
Oakland	4	3	0	.571	178	173
Kansas City	3	5	0	.375	195	182
San Diego	2	6	0	.250	191	227

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	4	4	0	.500	215	208
Washington	3	4	0	.429	148	168
Philadelphia	3	4	0	.429	160	137
Dallas	2	5	0	.286	133	171

South

Carolina	6	0	0	1.000	162	110
Atlanta	6	2	0	.750	213	173
New Orleans	4	4	0	.500	213	234
Tampa Bay	3	4	0	.429	163	199

North

Green Bay	6	1	0	.857	174	130
Minnesota	5	2	0	.714	147	122
Chicago	2	5	0	.286	140	202
Detroit	1	7	0	.125	149	245

West

Arizona	6	2	0	.750	263	153
St. Louis	4	3	0	.571	135	125
Seattle	4	4	0	.500	167	140
San Francisco	2	6	0	.250	109	207

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shirley's grabs top spot in girls U15 league

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club took the lead in the girls U15 division of the 2015 NMIFA Youth Fall League after nipping MP United, 1-0, last last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



Shirley's improved to a 2-1-1 win-draw-loss record to dislodge Matansa FC from the No. 1 spot, as the latter forfeited its game against Kanoa FC (1-0-2) to fall to a 2-0-1 card.

Mia Carreon scored the lone goal for Shirley's, finding the back of the net in the 53rd minute.

In the other girls U15 match last weekend, Tan Holdings FC bagged its second straight victory and joined Matansa in second place in the team standings following a 7-3 win against Paire FC (0-1-2).

Chloe Salvosa, who had three goals in their 4-0 win against Kanoa in Week 3, recorded her second hat-trick of the season to lift Tan Holdings to the easy win. She logged the first goal for Tan Holdings and tied the match after lighting up the board in the fourth minute. Renita Fleming drilled the first goal in the game a minute earlier.

Back-to-back goals (sixth and 24th minute) from Mary

Kay Alferos handed Tan Holdings a 3-1 halftime lead, while Krizel Mae Tuazon made it a 4-1 advantage with her shot two minutes into the second half. Tan Holdings then canned its last three goals in a span of four minutes for the convincing win. The string of goals started in the 39th minute off Carreon's second conversion, while Katherine Barroza knocked in the other one in the 40th, followed by Carreon's third two minutes later.

Paire, on the other hand, got its two goals from Guinevere Borja, who scored in the 35th and 46th minute.

Paire has yet to break into the win column and will try to do so this Saturday when it collides against erstwhile leader Matansa at 2:30pm at Hopwood's Pitch 1. Over at Pitch 2 at the same time, it will be MP United versus Kanoa, while in the second match at Pitch 1 at 4pm, Shirley's will challenge Tan Holdings.

Meanwhile, only one game was played in the 2015 Dove Women's Football Fall League at the Koblerville Elementary Scholl Field last Saturday with Kanoa FC beating Kagman High School, 3-1, in their Division B match.

Merlie Tolentino, Theresa



MP United Football Club's Tania Tan, center, tries to catch the ball after an attempt for a goal from Shirley's FC's Jerlyn Castillo, right, while MP United's Malika Miyawaki stays in the play during the first half of their girls U15 game in the NMIFA youth fall league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High Scholl Field.

Toves, and Marie Aldan scored for Kanoa, while Marcelyn

Welson drilled the lone goal for Kagman. Matansa won via for-

feiture over Paire in the other Division B game, while no Division A matches were scheduled last weekend.

Fernando, Devero take MVP awards

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Red Rice's Angelo Fernando and Makaloro Lang's Ivan Devero split the two individual awards handed at the conclusion of the 2015 Blue Haus/IT&E Inter-Color Basketball League last Sunday at the Navy Hill Basketball Court.

The lefty Fernando clinched the Finals MVP award for helping Red Rice beat Makaloro Lang, 94-91, in their championship match, while the high-flying Devero secured the regular season MVP plum.

Fernando scored 19 points in the winner-take-all match, hitting crucial baskets in the second half to save the day for Red Rice. He knocked in a pair of free throws at the end of the third period to turn Red Rice's shaky 70-69 lead to a 3-point cushion. Earlier in the third canto, he also made two charities to give the lead back to Red Rice after a 10-2 run by Makaloro Lang knotted the count at 62-all.

In the fourth quarter, he scored the first basket for Red Rice and then midway in the final canto after Makaloro Lang managed to steal the lead and stretched its advantage to as much as 5, Fer-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Red Rice's Angelo Fernando, right, drives against Makaloro Lang's Errol Peredo during the third quarter of their title game in the Blue Haus/IT&E caging last Sunday at the Navy Hill Basketball Court.

nando teamed up with Darwin Barbo in putting their team back on top. His layup ended Makaloro Lang's stay at the driver's seat, 87-86, and he also made a couple of hustle plays that broke up Makaloro Lang's offensive sets in the homestretch as he used his long arms and quickness to keep up with the opposing team's gunners.

Meanwhile, after losing in the finals, Devero had a sort of consolation as he went home with the regular season MVP award.

Devero bagged the coveted plum for towing Makaloro Lang to a field-best 6-2 record in round-robin elimination. He played in seven of the eight matches in the regular season and was Makaloro Lang's leading scorer with an average of 21.4 per game.

He registered his most points (32) in their 98-69 rout of the Mamba and then had 20-plus production in three other games, posting 23 versus Hard Kulangot, 26 against Eh Di Wow, and 21 over Purple Rain. Against, Red Rice and Kidlat, Devero tallied 18 and 16, respectively, while he had his least points (14) in their loss to Pasion De Amor. Devero did not play against Oh My J, which handed Makaloro Lang its second defeat in the regular season.

Nick, Frances are SGA monthly Aces

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER



Nick Sablan and Frances Sablan ruled the Saipan Golfers Association Aces of the Month held separately last September and October in different venues.

Nick Sablan ruled the August Ace of the Month that was played on Sept. 26 at the Marianas Country Club.

Sablan fired a 37 and 38 at the front and back nines to go 3-over at the par-72 golf course in Marpi. And with a 5 handicap, brought down his gross score of 75 to 70 net for a 3-shot win over Steve Balakrishna.

Balakrishna, a 9-handicapper, fired a pair of 41s for an 82 gross and a net score of 73 while Greg Sablan was one-shot back with a 74 after a 92 (46-46) and an 18 handicap.

Rick Kautz won the longest drive side event at holes No. 2 and 11, and was closest to the pin at No. 6.

Juan Lizama, Tony Guerrero, and Mariano Fajardo duplicated Kautz's feat and were closest to the pins at the remaining par-3 holes in No. 8, 12, and 16, respectively.

Frances Sablan was the September Ace when the monthly

tournament moved to Coral Ocean Golf Resort on Oct. 25.

Sablan had a 97 gross (49-48) and with a 28 handicap gave her a net score of 69 for a 3-shot victory over Jeung Eun Teack and Ed Sablan, who were tied for second with 72s.

Teack had rounds of 42 and 41 for an 83 gross and with a handicap earned him that 72. Ed Sablan, on the other hand, had a 91 gross (45-46) and the 19-handicapper ended with a 72 net.

Teack clinched second place after the scorecard playoff was implemented to break the deadlock.

Kautz again had the longest drive at No. 6 while James Nelson won at No. 18. Attorney General Edward Manibusan led the closest to the pin winners in No. 3 with Jess Castro, Manny Alvarez, and Lizama each did it in holes No. 7, 12, and 14.

Nick Sablan (August) and Frances Sablan (September) now join the Manibusan (January) John "Nanni" Cruz (February), Larry Deleon Guerrero (March), Teack (April), Alex Tudela (May), Lizama (June), and Jess Castro (July) as the other SGA Ace of the Month winners.



Heat rally
from 21 down,
rout Rockets,
109-89

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Shirley's
grabs top
spot in girls
U15 league

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28 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Royals rally late to win World Series

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Crown 'em, Kansas City! One agonizing step from ecstasy last season, this time the Royals reign after their latest incredible comeback and a go-ahead hit from maybe the most unlikely player in uniform.



Christian Colon singled home the tiebreaking run in the 12th inning and those bound-and-determined Royals rallied one more time to beat the New York Mets 7-2 in 12 innings early Monday for their first World Series championship since 1985.

Down 2-0 in the ninth, Kansas City fought back in Game 5 against two of the top arms

AP
Kansas City Royals pitcher Wade Davis (17) celebrates with Drew Butera after Game 5 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the New York Mets Monday, Nov. 2, 2015, in New York. The Royals won 7-2 to win the series.

on the pitching-rich Mets: Matt Harvey and Jeurys Familia. And the Royals did it not with home run power but instead a daring dash from Eric Hosmer,

» **Kansas City routs Mets in 12th**

a three-run double by Lorenzo Cain, a couple of crucial stolen bases.

Consistent contact,

See **ROYALS** on **Page 26**

Harvey, Mets waste another late lead in World Series loss

By HOWIE RUMBERG
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Harvey demanded the ball in the ninth inning of the Mets' biggest game in years, the biggest start of his career.

He got it. And once again in the World Series, Harvey did not get the result he hoped for.

This time the Dark Knight had plenty of help in wasting

a lead, and New York's season came to a sudden end early Monday with a 7-2, 12-inning loss to the Kansas City Royals in Game 5 of the best-of-seven series.

"Unfortunately, I couldn't finish what I started," Harvey said.

Daniel Murphy made another key error, and Jeurys

See **HARVEY** on **Page 26**

Salvador Perez earns World Series MVP



By RONALD BLUM
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Salvador Perez took foul balls of his mask, collarbone and fingers, and the Kansas City catcher kept on bouncing back, like some indestructible test dummy.

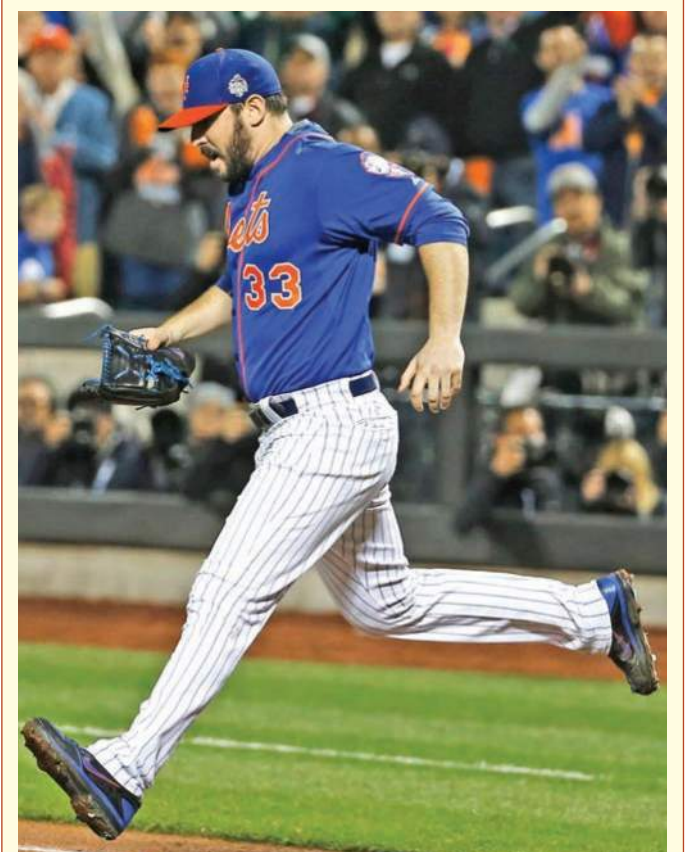
No bruise was too painful.

No ache was too much to overcome.

Not only did he anchor the pitching staff, he hit .364 (8 for 22) and was voted the Most Valuable Player in the Royals'

See **MVP** on **Page 26**

AP
Kansas City Royals catcher Salvador Perez poses with his trophy after being named the MVP after Game 5 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the New York Mets Monday, Nov. 2, 2015, in New York. The Royals won 7-2 to win the series.



AP
New York Mets pitcher Matt Harvey sprints out to the mound for the ninth inning of Game 5 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the New York Mets Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015, in New York.